

Mubarak: 'Saddam welcome to Cairo'

CAIRO (R) — President Hosni Mubarak said Sunday that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was always welcome to visit Egypt. Mr. Mubarak, commenting on President Hussein's remarks that he would have visited Cairo if he had not been busy with the Iran-Iraq war and other issues, told reporters: "This is good talk... Egypt always welcomes brother Saddam and other Arab brothers." President Hussein, quoted Saturday by the Iraqi News Agency INA, also defended last month's meeting between Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat and Mr. Mubarak, which caused an uproar in radical Arab states. Iraq, which with most other Arab states boycotted Egypt after it signed a separate peace treaty with Israel in 1979, has been trying to rebuild ties with Cairo.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز: مؤسسة صحفية اردنية "الراي"

Prince Talal, Egyptian leader confer

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak had five hours of talks Sunday with Prince Talal Ibn Abdul Aziz, the first senior member of the Saudi Arabian royal family to visit Egypt since Cairo signed a separate peace treaty with Israel in 1979. Mr. Mubarak and Prince Talal declined to elaborate on their talks, but the prince said when asked by reporters whether political issues were discussed, "it is natural that such lengthy discussions be varied." Prince Talal, an influential member of the Saudi royal family although without a government post, told Reuters in an interview in Riyadh earlier this month no political significance should be attached to his visit to Egypt. He said his visit was restricted to his role as president of the Arab Gulf Programme for the United Nations Development Organisation (AGFUND).

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APU plans to move against Israel, Iran

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Postal Union (APU) Executive Council has decided to draw up an integrated plan designed to expel Israel from the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and to ban the circulation of an Iranian stamp intended to harm Iraq's national interests. Ministry of Communications Under-Secretary Mansour Ibn Tarif said here Sunday. He was speaking upon returning home after leading Jordan's delegation to the APU's meeting in Riyadh.

Armenians welcome Mitterrand remarks

PARIS (R) — Armenian activists in France Sunday welcomed a statement by President Francois Mitterrand condemning a massacre of Armenians in 1915. Mr. Mitterrand referred to the massacre as genocide during a surprise visit Saturday to Armenian Christmas celebrations at Vienne near Lyons. Armenian nationalists say 1.5 million Armenians were massacred by Turks in 1915.

Harrods hits record sales

LONDON (R) — Harrods department store Sunday reported record sales of over £200 million (\$280 million) for its full trading year despite a recent bomb attack which killed six people. Last month Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas planted a car bomb outside Harrods, killing six and damaging the store. Harrods said it had become the first individual British store to achieve annual sales of over £200 million.

Andreotti ends African visit

DAKAR (R) — Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti ended a one-week African tour Saturday night after visits to Gabon and Senegal. Mr. Andreotti had talks with President Abdou Diouf and signed a new Italian-Senegalese cooperation agreement.

Venezuelan team in Riyadh

BAHRAIN (R) — A Venezuelan mission on a tour of Arab countries which are members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), arrived in Saudi Arabia Sunday for a two-day visit. The Saudi Press agency reported. The mission will also visit the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar, Kuwait, Libya and Algeria.

Oteiba holds talks in Algeria

PARIS (R) — Dr. Mana Al Oteiba, petroleum and mineral resources minister of the United Arab Emirates, conferred in Algiers Sunday with Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmad Taleb Ibrahim. The Algerian news agency APS received in Paris said. The agency said they discussed the situation in the Middle East, relations between members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and bilateral relations.

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Parliament meets today

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The Jordanian Lower House of Parliament will meet today for the first time in nearly a decade to approve a constitutional amendment allowing for general elections to be held in the East Bank. The text of the amendment, affecting Article 73 of the Jordanian Constitution, was referred to the parliament by the cabinet on Saturday.

The amendment concerns the appointment of new members of parliament in regions where it is now impossible to hold elections, and the period of time during which elections should be held after the dissolution of the present parliament.

Following are the reasons warranting amendment, according to the document:

1. Parliamentary life in Jordan is among the most prominent characteristics of the nation's culture existing ever since the establishment of the Transjordan emirate and later developing into the legislative council, and the two Houses of parliament.

2. Despite the Israeli occupation of the West Bank in 1967, the country has found another formula to practise democracy and involve citizens in shouldering the

responsibility of running the country. This was represented in the National Consultative Council which was by no means an alternative to parliament.

3. Despite the continued occupation of the West Bank it is logical to return the country to its sound democratic life. Therefore the decision has been taken to restore parliamentary life in Jordan regardless of the occupation.

4. Parliamentary life will be restored to the country so that the present Lower House of Parliament will not lose its constitutional quorum and therefore the following amendment is to be introduced to Article 73:

a. If the current compelling circumstances stated in item four of the article continued to persist, then the King, upon a cabinet decision, can reconvene the dissolved House of Parliament. This means

that the old House will continue to function in response to the pertaining royal decree. The House will exercise its full constitutional powers and will be subject to all provisions stated in the Constitution including its duration and dissolution measures. The House's session will therefore be considered the first ordinary session whenever it takes place.

b. Upon a cabinet decision general elections can be held in half the constituencies despite the occupation. The King is empowered to call for elections in these constituencies. The newly-elected parliament members will then elect up to half the number of deputies whose election was rendered impossible due to the compelling circumstances. When electing these deputies, Parliament should have at least three quarters of its members in session, and the candidate should receive the support of at least two-thirds of the members present, in accordance with Article 88 of the Constitution. Later the newly-elected deputies, together with the old ones, can together elect the remaining number of deputies.

Half of the 60 members of the House, which was suspended after Arab states recognised the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the sole legitimate rep-

resentative of Palestinians, represent the Israel-occupied West Bank.

According to a report published by the Sawt Al Shaab newspaper the cabinet will shortly resign in accordance with Jordanian constitutional procedures.

Following the Lower House's session the Upper House (Senate) is expected to ratify the amendment and to hear Royal Decrees on the reconvening of parliament in an extraordinary session and the acceptance of resignations by six Senate members.

Meanwhile a report in the daily Al Ra'i said Sunday that the campaign for the post of Speaker of the Lower House has already begun. Deputies Saturday embarked on a flurry of activities to ensure sufficient votes for their nomination to the speaker's seat.

The opening session will be chaired by former Parliament Speaker Kamel Ureigat but the normal session which will follow in six days' time must be chaired by a new speaker.

Quoting parliamentary sources the paper said that a former House Speaker Akel Al Fayed is the most favoured candidate. Other candidates for the post are Riyadh Al Mideen and Abdul Wahhab Al Majali.

'Parliament restoration will boost unity'

By Affiah A. Kaloti
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A number of Lower House of Parliament members, due to meet today, Monday, have said that the resumption of parliamentary life in Jordan will be instrumental in boosting the citizens' participation in the decision-making process and will further strengthen national unity.

In a series of interviews with the Jordan Times, 11 recalled deputies of the parliament also said that the restoration of parliamentary life to Jordan would be advantageous to citizens of both East and West Banks.

'Important, historical step'

One of the five deputies representing the Hebron District in the West Bank, Mr. Ramadan Hijeh, said the resumption of parliamentary life in Jordan is an "important and historical step taken by His Majesty King Hussein."

He added that the restoration of democratic life in the country is of "an enormous advantage to the

citizens of the East Bank as well as to the citizens of the West Bank."

Mr. Hijeh pointed out that the Lower House of Parliament will be an outlet for the people of the West Bank to express their needs and requirements which have been suppressed for a long time due to the compelling situation following the Israeli occupation there since 1967.

Continuation of legitimacy

A deputy of the Bethlehem region, Mr. Edward Khamis, said the recall of Parliament is a "continuation of legitimacy and democracy in the country which has been there since a very long time."

He added that the return of parliamentary life indicates several dimensions, the most important of which is "ensuring security and stability for our society and the re-establishment of the unity of the people of the two banks to its normal shape."

Mr. Khamis stressed that the recall of the Jordanian Parliament does not contradict the Rabat summit — which in 1974 passed a resolution considering the Pal-

estine Liberation Organisation (PLO) the sole and legitimate representative of Palestinian people. "The Jordanian step," he said, "is an internal arrangement designed to bring back together the peoples of the West and East Banks."

He added that "no-one has the right to interfere in the internal affairs of the country." Referring to the dissolved National Consultative Council (NCC), Mr. Khamis said "no-one could deny the efficiency of work undertaken since the NCC's establishment in 1978 but that the council was "not of democratic representation and hence did not have the authority of the recalled Lower House."

Therefore, he added, the House "should carry out its responsibilities in a frank and sincere manner."

Regarding the representation of the West Bank, Mr. Khamis said the people of the West Bank have been living in a vacuum for the municipality councils there "were not at all a compensation in voicing the people's demands." He expressed hope that the people's "social, economic and political requirements for steadfastness could be accomplished through

their elected deputies within the available potentials."

Another deputy, from the Nabulus region, Mr. Abdul Ra'ouf Al Fares, said that the revival of parliamentary life in the country is "the legitimate and legal situation."

Mr. Fares expressed hope that the Lower House of Parliament will serve the public interests of the country as well as the Palestinian issue and the Arab Nation.

Another deputy from the Hebron region, Mr. Mohammad Othman Abu Sabha, said the recalling of the Lower House of Parliament means the restoration of democracy in Jordan to which the country had been used since a very long time.

'All aspects covered'

Mr. Abu Sabha added that parliamentary life should be restored because it will "enable the people's representatives to fulfil their social, economic and political needs." He pointed out that the parliament's role "is not merely political as envisaged by people

Tripartite Lebanon talks begin in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH (R) — Foreign ministers of Syria, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia held talks lasting more than three hours here Sunday and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal said he hoped they would promote security and stability in Lebanon.

"We hope the meeting will bear fruit for security and stability in Lebanon," he said but added: "We are still planting the tree."

Syria's Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam, who met Saudi Arabia's King Fahd and Lebanon's Foreign Minister Elie Salem flew to Riyadh for the talks held at Prince Saud's home.

Unofficial exchanges preceded

three-and-a-half hours of more formal exchanges on which no details were available.

The meeting was to discuss attempts to implement a security plan to end five months of factional fighting mainly pitting the Lebanese government and right-wing militias against Druze and Amal combatants who have Syrian backing.

Lebanese official sources said earlier in Beirut that resumption of a Geneva conference on reconciling the Lebanese factions largely depended on whether the security plan could be implemented.

Pretoria offers SWAPO direct peace talks

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa announced Sunday that its troops had begun withdrawing from battle areas in southern Angola and tentatively offered direct peace talks with the Namibian (South West African) guerrillas it had been fighting during the month-long incursion.

Foreign Minister P. Botha said Saturday night he would be prepared to allow direct talks between a delegation headed by the administrator-general of Namibia and the South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO).

Defence Minister General Magnus Malan, announcing the withdrawal of his men, said that, if necessary, firm action would be

taken again "regardless of the consequences."

Senior military officials said Saturday that South African forces had killed 324 SWAPO, Cuban and Angolan fighters in a three-day pitched battle 200 kilometres north of the Namibian border.

They said the operations in Angola were being scaled down after achieving their aim of blunting an annual rainy season attempt by about 1,000 SWAPO guerrillas to infiltrate the territory.

A South African offer last month of a 30-day truce from Jan. 31 has been positively received by SWAPO and Angola, but both

Fateh, PLO groups reach tentative accord over Arafat

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

TUNIS — Tentative agreement has been reached between the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) mainstream commando movement, Fateh, and three groups of the PLO that radical demands for the ouster of Yasser Arafat as the chairman of the organisation be dropped on the condition that the Palestinian leader makes "no individualistic move" or "organisational error," such as his controversial visit to Cairo last month, in the future, a senior PLO Executive Committee member said Sunday.

The three PLO groups, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) led by George Habash, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) headed by Nayef Hawatme and the Palestinian Communist Party, had sent envoys to Tunis where they held intensive, but unofficial, talks with leaders of Fateh, also headed by Mr. Arafat.

The envoys, Suleiman Al Najad of the PFLP, Yasser Abd Rabbo of the DFLP, who is also a PLO Executive Committee member, and Abdulrahman Al Miallohi representing the Palestinian Communist Party, left Tunis for Damascus Sunday after the tentative agreement for further consultations with the leaders of their Syrian-based organisations, the senior Executive Committee member said.

The three organisations, along with the radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) led by Libyan-backed Ahmad Jibril, and the pro-Syrian Al Saika group, had denounced Mr. Arafat's visit to Cairo and his meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak last month after the PLO leader's forced evacuation from north Lebanon in the face of attacks by Syrian-backed Palestinian rebels opposed to his leadership.

The PLO and most of the other members of the 21-member Arab League severed relations with Egypt after Cairo signed a separate peace treaty with Israel in 1979. There had been no official PLO-Cairo contacts since then until Mr. Arafat's visit, which the PLO leader defended Saturday as intended to restore the "balance power" in favour of the Arab World.

Denouncing the visit late last month, DFLP leader Habash called for the immediate ouster of Mr. Arafat as PLO chairman but the DFLP, although critical of the Arafat-Mubarak meeting, took a less radical line and did not support the Habash call.

PNC session scheduled

Meanwhile, the PLO Executive Committee concluded its meeting here Sunday with a decision to call the Palestine National Council (PNC) into session in mid-February amid reports that Libya and Syria are drawing up plans to form a separate Palestinian organisation to replace the PLO.

The Executive Committee meetings, which were attended by nine of its 14 members, endorsed a statement by the Fateh Central Committee, last week endorsing Mr. Arafat's policy of closer ties with Jordan and Egypt.

The statement, issued after intensive meetings of the Central Committee, tacitly supported Mr. Arafat's meeting with Mr. Mubarak.

The sources said the outcome of the Executive Committee meetings in the past week underlined the committee's support for Mr. Arafat.

The meetings were boycotted by the PFLP, DFLP, Al Saika, the PFLP-GC and Mohsen Abu Maizer, an independent member of the Executive Committee. The committee needs a nine-member quorum, and it was fulfilled by the presence of the other eight members and Mr. Arafat, in his capacity as chairman of the committee.

Libyan-Syrian moves

As the meetings were going on, reports received from Damascus said that Libyan second-in-command Major Abdul Salam Al Jalloud as holding talks with Syrian and Libyan-backed org-

anisations such as the PFLP, Al Saika and the PFLP-GC, which are opposed to Mr. Arafat, to establish an alternative organisation to replace the PLO.

However, PLO sources in Tunis stress that other Palestinian organisations which did not take part in the attacks against forces loyal to Mr. Arafat in north Lebanon will not pressure from Libya or Syria.

The sources mentioned the DFLP as one example of Palestinian groups strongly opposed to breaking away from the PLO.

Revolutionary Council to meet

The Revolutionary Council of Fateh, which is the link between the Central Committee and movement's general congress, will hold a meeting here Monday to discuss organisational affairs and the political strategy to be adopted in the coming stage in the light of the statement issued by the Fateh Central Committee and last February's resolutions of the PNC. The 70-member Revolutionary Council will be paving the ground for a general-Fateh conference to be held later, the sources said. The sources expect that the nine members of the Fateh Central Committee members now in Damascus will not attend the meeting.

In a related development, the head of the PLO Political Committee, Farouk Al Kaddoumi, told the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i newspapers that the organisation does not interfere in the internal affairs of any Arab state. "But we hope that the recall of parliament meeting in Jordan will not affect in any way at present or in future the Rabat Arab summit resolutions, and will not affect the role of the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people everywhere," Mr. Kaddoumi said.

PLO envoy due soon

By Lamis K. Andoni

TUNIS — A top-level Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official is expected to visit Amman shortly, most probably this week, to hold talks with Jordanian officials, Palestinian sources said here Sunday.

The official, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, will discuss with the Jordanian government the recall of the Jordanian Lower House of Parliament and its implications on the Palestinian issue, the sources told the Jordan Times.

His Majesty King Hussein an-

nounced the recall of Jordan's elected assembly on Thursday and the House will meet today to amend the constitution to allow for general elections to be held in the East Bank.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat told the Jordan Times in an interview published Sunday that the Jordanian move was purely an internal matter but that he hoped it would not have any political dimensions on the West Bank.

The Fateh Central Committee was meeting in Tunis on Sunday evening to approve sending the Palestinian envoy to Jordan, the Palestinian sources said.

U.S. Marine killed in helicopter attack

BEIRUT (R) — A U.S. Marine was killed and two Lebanese soldiers wounded on the west Beirut seafloor Sunday when gunmen opened fire on two U.S. helicopters about to take off for ships of the Sixth Fleet.

The gunmen sent two rocket-propelled grenades and a hail of bullets flying towards the CH-46 Sea Knight helicopters, which were parked at a Lebanese army base at the northwestern tip of the city. Marine spokesman Major Dennis Brooks said.

One Marine was hit and died

later in a Beirut hospital, the spokesman added. His name was withheld until his family could be informed. Two Lebanese soldiers were hit and wounded, state-run Beirut Radio said.

The Marine was the first to die in Lebanon since Dec. 4, when a single mortar round killed eight at a position close to their main base at Beirut airport.

Maj. Brooks said the gunmen were in nearby buildings and that the helicopter crew and about 12 Marines protecting the landing zone fired back.

Howe in Cairo

CAIRO (R) — British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe arrived here today on the first leg of a five-day tour of Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Syria, his first visit to the region since he took office last June.

Speaking to reporters at Cairo airport, Sir Geoffrey said his government was most anxious to see progress being made towards peace and stability throughout the region.

"But it will be presumptuous of me to come here on the first visit to offer a blueprint of peace for the Middle East," he added.

Sir Geoffrey said he was here to listen and learn because Britain and the European countries were very interested in the region. "I shall be hoping to learn what steps might be taken towards this objective," he said.

The Foreign Office in London said Sunday Sir Geoffrey would discuss Lebanon, prospects for Middle East peace and the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq.

British officials said Britain, which has 100 troops as part of the four-nation peacekeeping force in Beirut, felt the time was ripe to see whether some progress could be made towards the withdrawal of the force from Lebanon.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali, who was at the port to meet Sir Geoffrey, told reporters Egypt was "longing to see some support for the peaceful efforts that are going on."

Jordanian company produces silver

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordanian Silver Refinery Company (JSRC), an Indo-Jordanian joint venture in the private sector, Sunday announced it has started producing silver in Jordan through a simple extraction process.

The first consignment of the silver, produced at the JSRC plant at the Zarqa Free Zone, is expected to be exported to Saudi Arabia in a couple of days. JSRC General Manager Joy Joseph told reporters.

Mr. Joseph confirmed that the silver was extracted from scrap material such as photographic films and film developer solution obtained from local sources.

At present the company has a production capacity of eight to 10 kilograms per day and in another three months' time the capacity can reach 100 kilograms "subject to the availability of scrap material," Mr. Joseph told a press conference in Amman.

Mr. Joseph, representing the Bombay-based Royal Corporation which provided the technical know-how for the project, expressed confidence that the production target of 100 kilograms per day could be reached "provided that present arrangements for procuring the scrap material from neighbouring countries go ahead smoothly."

The scrap material available in Jordan at present, Mr. Joseph said, is not sufficient to meet the minimum requirements of the plant at Zarqa. However, since there was a good quantity of accumulated material the minimum requirements of the plant could be met, he added.

The silver produced by JSRC is 99.99 per cent pure and consequently the metal is of international standards. Mr. Joseph said, adding that it could be sold in international metal markets.

However, since Saudi Arabia is a very good consumer of the metal, for its various industries such as electroplating, jewelry manufacturing etc., JSRC does not have plans for marketing the metal in other markets at present, Mr. Joseph said.

Present activities of the company for extracting silver from the scrap material are confined to a 32-square-metre work area, employing some 15 people, Mr. Joseph said.

When the project reaches its



Three of the one-kilogramme silver blocks produced by the Jordanian Silver Refinery Company

final stage the plant would have about 1,000-square-metre area and would employ 80 people, including craftsmen who would be engaged in producing silver jewelry, Mr. Joseph said.

Local Jordanian market does not offer much scope for the silver blocks presently produced by the company, he said. Current production is limited to blocks of 500 grammes and 1 kilogramme.

The Royal Corporation, which started the venture with its two Jordanian partners, Mr. Jameel Abdul Fattah Al Ramahi and Mr. Hassan Hammed Ikhassa some three months back, would have Indian technicians and craftsmen, about half of the JSRC workforce, according to Mr. Joseph.

"Since the nature of work involved is highly technical, it would be some time before the company can have a full Jordanian workforce," Mr. Joseph said.

The capital and profit-sharing arrangement between the Indian firm and its Jordanian counterparts is on a 40-60 basis, Mr. Joseph said. The plant would be hundred per cent Jordanian in 10 years, according to the joint-venture agreement.

Mr. Joseph stressed the fact that

this is the first time in the Middle East such a plant is set up and "from today Jordan becomes an exporter of silver."

Some of the jewelry, which JSRC would be producing in another three months' time, would find its way to the local market and the rest would be exported to Europe and the United States, the Indian businessman said.

He declined to give details on the proportion of silver yield to the basic scrap material, but only said that "it is highly feasible financially."

Mr. Joseph also displayed several blocks of silver produced at the Zarqa plant. The blocks were

of 99.99 per cent purity, he said, adding that "by virtue of the process and technical know-how which we are applying for the extraction, it is inconceivable that the silver produced would have any less than 99.99 per cent purity."

Apart from the silver refinery technology, Royal Corporation has several other proposals for recycling waste and scrap material in Jordan, Mr. Joseph said. Negotiations were continuing with several local firms and individuals, and the results would be announced quite soon, he added.

He did not give details of the proposed projects.

Dudin to inaugurate toxic laboratory in Baqa'a today

AMMAN (Petra) — Agriculture Minister Marwan Dudin Monday opens a toxic laboratory at Hussein Agricultural Station in Baqa'a.

The laboratory was set up in cooperation with the German AID for Technical Cooperation under

agreements signed between Jordan and the Federal Republic of Germany.

The laboratory, considered the first of its kind in Jordan, is aimed at studying the effect of insecticides on fruits and vegetables.

Hussein receives U.S. delegation

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday night spoke about conditions in the occupied Arab lands and arbitrary measures which the Arab inhabitants are exposed to under Israeli rule.

King Hussein was speaking at an audience with the visiting U.S. congressional delegation led by Congressman Mathew McHugh, member of the Foreign Relations Committee in the U.S. Congress.

At the meeting King Hussein also reviewed the current Middle East developments and explained Jordan's stand and the Arab countries' endeavours to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The meeting at Al Nadwa Palace was attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor, Armed Forces Commander in Chief Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem and U.S. ambassador to Jordan Richard Viets. The guests later had dinner with King Hussein.

The five-member delegation which arrived here Saturday on a three-day visit will hold talks with Jordanian officials and assess U.S. assistance programmes to Jordan.

Later Sunday the delegation met with the commander-in-chief. The meeting was attended by army chief of staff Fathi Abu Taleb and Mr. Viets.

License issued for new magazine

AMMAN (Petra) — A royal decree has been issued approving the Cabinet's decision to grant Adnan Al Sabah and Fayez Hamdan a license to issue a weekly magazine under the name of "Al Ithnein" (Monday).

Editor of the magazine which will be issued every Monday will be Mr. Adnan Al Sabah.

Al Ithnein was established in 1963 as a political magazine, but was suspended because of events in Lebanon where it was previously printed.

Social Development Ministry to hold seminar on Friday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The role of women in the field of information will be the theme of a seminar which will open at the Ministry of Social Development on Jan. 20.

Delegates from several Arab countries will take part in the three-day seminar which will tackle several aspects of women's work in the information media, mainly the press.

Islamic Council launches efforts to restore holy sites in occupied land

AMMAN (Petra) — The Higher International Islamic Council on Mosques which concluded its meetings in Jeddah has established a special fund for Palestine and already started raising contributions for restoring mosques and other Islamic cultural institutions and heritage centres in the occupied territories, according to Awqaf Minister Kamel Al Sharif.

Mr. Sharif who was speaking upon returning from the council meeting said that the Jordanian delegation had submitted a working paper on the situation in the occupied regions and Israel's ar-

bitrary measures against the Arab population there.

The paper outlined Israel's drive to isolate and weaken the Arab populations and pursue attacks and violations on places of

worship, Mr. Sharif said. The delegation also submitted a proposal for the establishment of an international exhibition about Jerusalem that will highlight holy places, the minister said. Adding that such an exhibition could be made to tour all Islamic countries.

Mr. Sharif said that the council's meetings were attended by delegates from all Islamic nations and representatives of Muslim communities in non-Islamic countries who discussed ways of highlighting the role of Islam in establishing world peace.

Also subjects pertaining to pilgrimage and ways to overcome problems confronted by Jordanian pilgrims were discussed, Mr. Sharif said.



Awqaf Minister Kamel Al Sharif (right) returns after attending an Islamic meeting in Jeddah

Crown Prince to open seminar on Arab monetary cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will open here Saturday a three-day seminar on "scopes of Arab Monetary Cooperation."

Taking part in the seminar, which is organised by the Central Bank of Jordan, the Arab Monetary Fund and the Arab Thought Forum, will be Arab businessmen and executives of Arab financial institutions.

The seminar will discuss the role of Arab funds in supporting bal-

ances of payment in Arab countries, the role of Arab monetary cooperation for financing trade, directly and indirectly, between Arab countries and ways for removing customs obstacles to facilitate free trade.

Also on the agenda are such subjects as strengthening Arab financial markets and coordinating monetary cooperation among Arab states with a view to

help in bringing about Arab financial and monetary integration.

Egyptian envoy to arrive

AMMAN (J.T.) — Egyptian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Dr. Mustafa Al Sa'id is due here Friday to take part in a seminar on Arab Monetary cooperation which will be held by the Central Bank of Jordan in cooperation with the Arab Monetary Fund and the Arab Thought Forum.

'Parliament restoration will boost unity'

(Continued from page 1)
but it includes all aspects of life in the country."

Mr. Abu Sabha said that the parliament will strengthen ties between the people of the East and West Banks.

Mr. Abdul Wahab Al Tarawneh, a deputy for the Karak region, said the return of parliamentary life is a happy event to all people, for "they will be able to practise democratic life in its full sense." In respect to the effect of parliamentary life on West Bankers, Mr. Tarawneh said the House will endeavour to voice the people's demands and needs in the best possible way.

'A turning point'

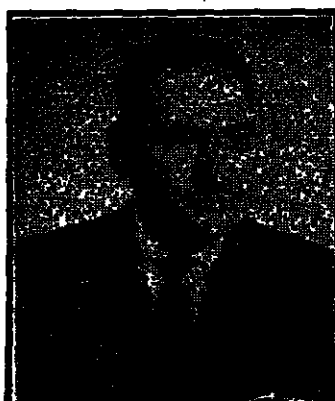
He said that the restoration of the Jordanian Constitution is a turning point where the people, through their elected deputies, could control, supervise and follow up on people's interests within bounds of the Kingdom's constitution.

Another deputy from the Karak region, Mr. Abdul Wahab Al Majali, said the resumption of parliamentary life will strengthen the people's unity and will ensure a unified stance under the current circumstances. Mr. Majali said that democracy in Jordan will enable the country to face challenges and "it would be able to clarify to all the countries of the world its views on the Israeli occupation and Israel's arbitrary measures taken against the people living in the occupied territories."

'Essential pillar'

A deputy from the Irbid region, Mr. Rizk Al Batayneh, said the return of parliamentary life means the restoration of the constitution and the reviewing of the temporary draft laws of the country which "came in enormous quantities." Mr. Batayneh pointed out that the step also means ensuring an "essential pillar" in the country that of the legislative authority. He added that the return of the parliamentary institution stresses the strong ties and unity of the people in the two banks which "will enable them to face the Zionist aggression and its expansionist ambitions."

Mr. Batayneh said the House of Parliament is the right place to



Ramadan Hijleh

highlight the requirements of the Jordanian citizens who "got used to express their needs in all aspects of life frankly and clearly."

A deputy from the Jenin region in the West Bank, Mr. Maher Irsheid, said the year 1950 marked the beginning of a new era in the history of Jordan. "The parliament convened that year with its members from both banks of the country, thus, a genuine and solid constitutional set-up emerged in the area amidst tremendous amount of hardships and difficulties," he said. Mr. Irsheid pointed out that the outbreak of the 1967 war and the suspension of the parliament in 1974 "had posed major obstacles and challenges to the growth and enriching of constitutional experience in this country." He said the restoration of the parliamentary institution in Jordan "would reflect the harmonious representation of our people along the two banks of the river for the fate of one part is tied to the other."

Regarding the situation in the West Bank and the importance of parliamentary life in this regard, Mr. Irsheid said the West Bank is facing a fatal tragedy and the ever-growing number of Jewish settlements there has been threatening its Arab identity.

Imperative and necessary

"Therefore," he stressed, "the voicing of strong and clear words from the platform of this institution is imperative and necessary."

Mr. Irsheid added: "It is time for our people in the two banks to convey a message of truth and determination through its legislative organ, the parliament."



Edward Khamis



Abdul Wahab Al Majali

One of the five deputies representing the Jerusalem constituency, Mr. Moheiddin Al Hussein, said the restoration of parliament to Jordan is a necessary step to resume a legal constitutional course through democratic ways. Democracy, Mr. Hussein said, "is a manifestation of civilisation in most of the advanced nations." He added the by-elections that are likely to be held in the East Bank to fill eight vacant seats in the House "will revive the democratic political activity and the people will actually participate in shouldering the responsibilities through their elected deputies."

Regarding the West Bank representation, Mr. Hussein said the citizens will "pursue the struggle against the Israeli enemy until the end of the occupation."

"Later, the people will have to participate in playing their democratic roles as His Majesty King Hussein has said," he added.

Another deputy from the Hebron region, Mr. Ismail Hijazi, said the restoration of parliamentary life in Jordan is a "blessing to the



Mohammad Othman Abu Sabha



Abdul Wahab Al Tarawneh

country and has been met with satisfaction by the various sectors of the public."

"We will do whatever we can to save the Palestinian homeland," he said.

Mr. Hijazi emphasised that parliamentary life underlines the fact that the people on the two banks constitute one family. "Together we will draw up plans that will serve the higher national interests," he added.

A deputy from the Toulkarm region in the West Bank, Mr. Khalid Al Fayyad, said the recall of parliament is an important step in that "it represents all people in the country, sharing the responsibilities of all aspects of life, and voicing their requirements through their elected deputies."

Mr. Fayyad said that all citizens in Jordan look forward to participating in the democratic life and in shouldering responsibility with their representatives.

As to the West Bank, the return of parliamentary life is essential to preserve Jordan's legal responsibility there, Mr. Fayyad added.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jordan to take part in Morocco meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government has formed Jordan's delegation to take part in an Islamic nations' foreign ministers meeting to be held in Morocco. The delegation will be led by Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, according to a report in Al Ra'i newspaper Sunday. It said that the foreign ministers will prepare the ground for an Islamic summit to be held at Casablanca on Jan. 16.

JMC to revise fees for doctors

AMMAN (J.T.) — Doctors and hospitals' fees will be revised by the Jordanian Medical Association (JMA) at a meeting to be held Monday evening. A JMC spokesman said that the association plans to open the opportunity for new doctors to find work and to charge the minimum rates instead of the maximum rate, normally charged by well-established physicians and specialists. The JMC also plans to remove the ceiling on doctors' rates in hospitals and surgeries, the spokesman said.

University forms new committee

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan has formed a preparatory committee for establishing an institute for environmental studies at higher studies' level. This institute aims at restoring antiquities, preserving architecture, and conducting studies pertaining to environment and its problems. The preparatory committee groups Dr. Awad Khleifat, Dr. Nimer Haikal, Dr. Mahmoud Abu Taleb, Dr. Anwar Al Batikh, and Dr. Hani Khouri.

Malhas signs agreements

AMMAN (Petra) — Several agreements were signed here Sunday by Health Ministry and a group of local companies for the implementation of various projects at a total cost of JD 330,043. The projects entail: Constructing lodgings for nursing college students in Amman, and a building to house the forensic medicine at Al Bashir Hospital, expanding Al Karameh hospital and establishing five health centres on the Desert Highway. Health Minister Zuhair Malhas and the general managers of the companies signed the agreements.

Electric company starts new system of collecting charges

AMMAN (J.T.) — A new system approved by the cabinet, for collecting electricity charges, has been put into force as of Jan. 1, 1984, according to Mr. Marwan Bushnaq, director of the Jordan Electric Power Company's technical division.

He said that under the new system to be applied to Amman and Irbid, charges on electricity consumption will be collected every three months instead of every

month.

Mr. Bushnaq said that subscribers have increased to 210,000 in Amman alone and the company's field of operations have extended to rural regions which warrant the new system.

Also the new system will save wages for employing additional collectors and save the subscribers the trouble of having to settle their bills every month, Mr. Bushnaq said.

AWSA may restore water distribution system

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman Water and Sewerage Authority (AWSA) is considering restoring a water distribution system to various regions in view of this year's drought, according to AWSA Director Mohammad Al Kilani.

He said that a decision on the matter will be taken within a week.

Last year's rains had of course replenished the underground reserves and AWSA had taken a decision to pump water to all regions around the clock.

Ma'in spa project will be completed during 1984

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ma'in Mineral Water Spa project, the first therapeutic centre in the Middle East will be completed during the current year, according to Al Ra'i newspaper.

It said public utilities of the JD 12 million project, that include swimming pools and restaurants, are expected to be opened during the first half of the current year. A Jordanian medical team as well as employees and nurses will be employed at the centre and preparations are underway for training female and male youths in Madaba and Ma'in areas to man the centre, the report said.

Director of tourism at the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities Michael Hamarneh said that the Ma'in Spa Project is a pilot project in Jordan and it will place Jordan in the line of countries which provide therapeutic services.

DE FACTONOMICS

By T.A. Jaber

Our parliament in session

TODAY IS a historic day for the unified East and West Banks of Jordan firmly integrated in 1950. The parliament, which was elected back in 1967, and was still functioning until it was disrupted by the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, will convene in Amman. The event has many implications over the relationship between the West and East Banks and over possible approaches towards a peaceful settlement in our region.

Every Jordanian, I dare say, will support this move in the light of its immediate and long-term implications.

The restoration of parliamentary life to Jordan has been an objective of its own

merit. It is a long-awaited move for balancing authorities and guaranteeing democratic representation. It shall induce deeper involvement of our people in shouldering political, economic and social responsibilities. Parliamentary life was experienced in Jordan for two decades and is now worth being restored; whatever shortcomings it had suffered.

The summoning of the 1967-parliament should be considered as a transitory mechanism towards electing a new one within 1984. Over the past 16 years, Jordan witnessed remarkable social and economic changes that should be reflected in the attitudes and stands of a new parliament.

Professionals and middle-class representatives along with women and workers should have much wider representation in the forthcoming elections than in the 1967-parliament.

New parliamentary elections will require adequate answers for many issues. The 1979 population census should be used as a base for the national distribution of seats. The total number of parliament member can be increased from 60 to one hundred. Who does legally qualify to run for candidacy and to vote? Perhaps a higher committee can be formed by the re-activated parliament to study these and other issues and to submit its proposals to the government.

The unity between the East and West Banks of Jordan is still alive and strong despite the Israeli occupation. Jordanian laws are still valid in the West Bank, through in many instances have been amended to suit the interests of the Israeli occupation. The Jordanian dinar is the strongest currency in the West Bank and its increased balances there represent a net annual transfer from and through the East Bank.

The Jordan government has been wrongly accused by Western press of not showing enough courage to step forward for a peaceful settlement. Some Western officials have informally claimed that Jordan had used the 1974-Rabat res-

olution on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as an excuse for inaction. Some writers even tried to allude that Jordan is doing economically much better under the 1974-Rabat resolution and that Jordan has no incentive to boldly pursue possible approaches for peace.

These claims are short-sighted indeed, because Jordan has always taken favourable stands towards promising peaceful initiatives from the United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 in 1967 to President Reagan's initiative in September 1982.

Jordan's ability to play a strong role in the peace process has been and is still constrained by the unwillingness of the

United States to bring Israel to acceptable peace, terms the so far inability of the PLO factions to reach agreement on the bases of co-operation with Jordan, and the pressures exerted on Jordan from time to time by other Arab governments, be it financially or security-wise.

The reconvening of the 1967-parliament will create hopes for the Palestinians under occupation and outside that they can see a possible end to the occupation and scattering. They would prefer to have the PLO co-operating with Jordan in this endeavour, but if the PLO decided to pursue its different course, most Palestinians will opt for an open rather than a dead-end road.

A chance not to be missed

JORDANIANS and Palestinians have been engaged in intensive and simultaneous efforts to put things into perspective for the coming stage. Each effort is essentially important in itself, but in the end, both Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have to come up with a unified position on the various issues facing them, if we are to make progress and achieve our aims for the common cause.

Here in Amman, the recalled Lower House of parliament will be meeting today, for the first time in nearly a decade, to approve a constitutional amendment allowing for general elections to be held in the East Bank, while upholding Jordan's legal responsibility for the West Bank. As a senior government official explained to the Jordan Times on Saturday, the recall of the elected assembly "has nothing to do with the representation of the Palestinians of the West Bank. It is purely an East Bank development that indicates that we in Jordan feel that it is not realistic to expect our own political development to be forever frozen because of lack of progress on resolving the Palestinian issue."

In Tunis on the other hand, the Palestinian leadership has been holding intensive talks to chart the course for the post-Tripoli era and in the aftermath of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's visit to Cairo last month. Reports from there Sunday suggested that a tentative agreement has been reached between Fatah, the mainstream Palestinian organisation led by Mr. Arafat, and three radical groups which hitherto have called for the ouster of the PLO chairman after his "unilateral" decision to visit Egypt and hold talks with President Mubarak following the Palestinian evacuation from Tripoli.

The activity in Amman and Tunis is taking place against a backdrop of other developments in the region that are also important and connected to future steps on the Palestinian problem, and as such have to be taken into careful consideration.

Soon enough, Jordan will receive a personal envoy of Mr. Arafat, who will exchange with senior government officials here views on what is simultaneously taking place on the Jordanian and Palestinian political fronts, as well on the international and regional levels.

This is therefore a period that requires from all of us to move carefully, but not indecisively, to assert ourselves and our objectives. It is a time when there is a growing need, on the part of Jordan and the PLO, to co-ordinate moves and activity very closely, so that hitches of any kind do not appear on the horizon to slow progress towards our common goals of ending the Israeli occupation of our land, and towards securing for the Palestinians their inalienable rights and aspirations.

The legitimate PLO leadership seems to have gone a long way towards consolidating its authority and asserting its representativeness of the Palestinian people in the post-Tripoli era. Jordan too has taken the courageous and promising step of recalling its elected assembly, and the people here are full of hope that the coming stage will be one of more confidence and progress. Both the Jordanian and Palestinian people want and need to work jointly for a better future, in harmony and unity. And here lies the best opportunity perhaps to do it.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Arafat's forthcoming visit

IN HIS meeting with Jordanian correspondents in Tunis Saturday, PLO chief Yasser Arafat expressed understanding of the constitutional reasons behind the calling of parliament for a meeting in Amman. He also said that he would come to Amman shortly for resuming the dialogue with Jordan on joint future action.

These statements underline the concern Arafat has for the future PLO relations with Jordan as he wants to further strengthen them and to safeguard the PLO leadership at the same time. This statement has foiled all attempts by Arafat's enemies who wished to see PLO-Jordanian relations severed.

No one can deny the heavy responsibilities of Arafat and the PLO leadership for maintaining the unity of the PLO and for striving to liberate the occupied Arab territories. Every one is called on to back the legitimate Palestinian leadership and to support the joint Jordanian-Palestinian action which should form the basis for every Arab effort aimed at settling the Middle East conflict.

Such joint action opens new avenues for both sides at the international level for reviving the peace process to settle the question. It is also bound to foil Israel's attempts to budaise the occupied Arab territories and to evict Arab inhabitants from their homeland.

Al Dustour: Arafat warns against partition

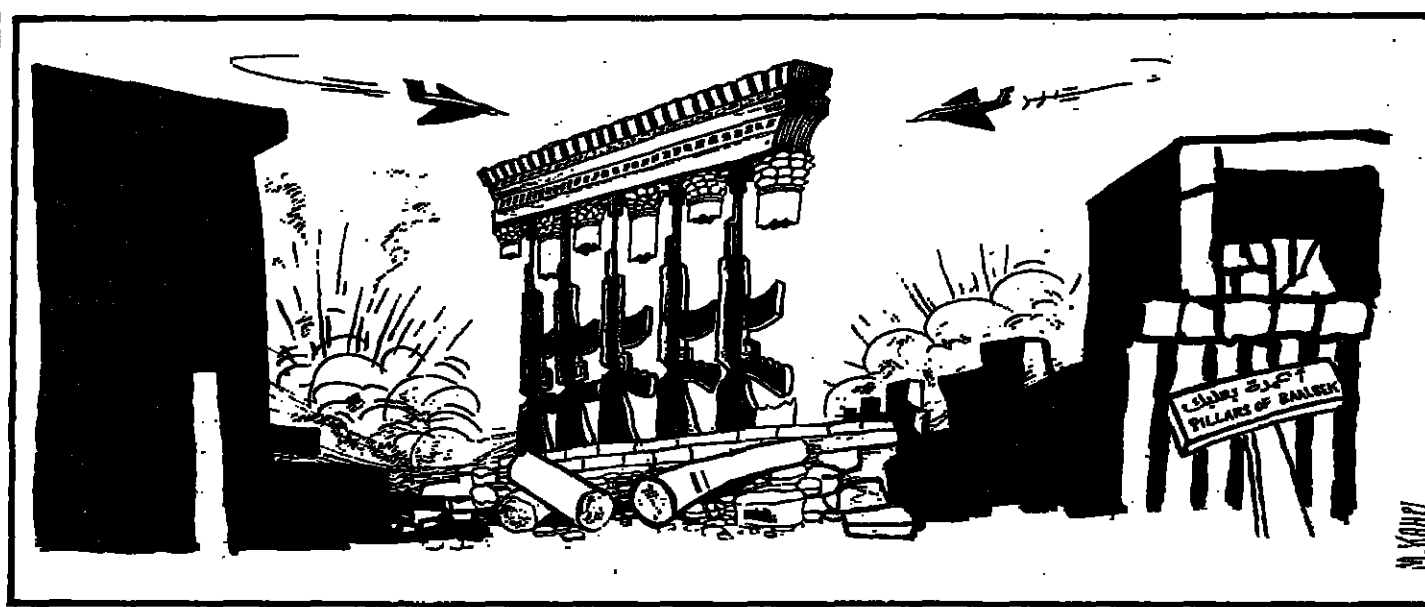
PERHAPS THE most dangerous part of Arafat's statement to Jordanian reporters in Tunis was his mention of a conspiracy that was designed to partition Lebanon into mini states and sectarian entities, and the resettlement of the Palestinian people in Lebanon. Arafat said that he had been offered a sector of Lebanon for establishing a Palestinian state as an alternative for Palestine but he refused. He said that a certain Arab state was involved in the conspiracy, engineered by Israel and the United States.

This conspiracy should open the eyes of the Lebanese people, before anyone else to the danger threatening their country, specially after all the U.S.-Israeli talk of partitioning Lebanon.

Sawt Al Shaab: Joint effort needed

JORDAN'S RETURN to parliamentary life has been welcomed by many sectors of the Jordanian public, who believe that the time has come for the public to take part in shouldering the government's responsibility. Democratic life will be established on firm basis of public awareness and the willingness by the people to participate in performing duty and bearing the responsibility of running their own country.

The return to parliamentary life in Jordan follows nearly a decade on suspending the old parliament and freezing elections until the time has become opportune for resuming democratic rule. Parliamentary life offers the chance for all citizens to offer their services for building a stronger and more stable nation.



Nigeria's coup leader, Gen. Buhari, earns Western diplomats' praise

By Michael Battye
Reuter

LAGOS — Nigeria's new military leader, Maj. Gen. Mohammed Buhari, has evoked enthusiasm among many of his countrymen with his solid style and pungent remarks on the government he overthrew.

The 41-year-old general has come across as serious and frank with a pleasant leavening of humour in his first broadcasts and public appearances since the military takeover.

Foreign diplomats, too, have been impressed by his start.

"He appears to be a man who knows exactly what he is doing without having any illusions about the seriousness of his problems," commented one senior Western envoy who talked to Gen. Buhari when he met the diplomatic corps last week.

Gen. Buhari is no stranger to power. He was a prominent member of the previous military government in its last few years before it handed over power to civilians in 1979 elections.

He acted in the key positions of petroleum minister and chairman of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), supervising the oil industry on which Nigeria depends.

Oil industry officials here say they are happy to welcome him back to power, describing him as an intelligent and straightforward man who was easy to deal with, listened well and was prepared to admit it when he had made a mistake.

Most Western diplomats have been similarly welcoming in private conversations, despite their regret at the passing of democracy.

They say they see in Gen. Buhari a sense of discipline and commitment that might help Nigeria out of its economic crisis and they believed was lacking in the ousted regime of President Shehu Shagari.

Gen. Buhari has an easier task in the early days of his gov-

ernment: winning the approbation of Nigerians, many of whom seemed delighted to see the end of what they considered a civilian government of the rich and for the rich.

Many Nigerians watched a televised recording of his first press conference in which he did not avoid questions, gave straight answers and spoke with an easy fluency.

He delighted many with his pungent castigations of the ousted regime for alleged corruption.

Diplomatic sources doubt that he was the prime mover behind the coup, although he leaves no doubt about his passionate commitment to what he has called "the cleaning out of the Augean stables," a classical reference to cleaning up a mess.

Nigerians like that passion, a complete contrast to the duller low-key Shagari approach.

The sources say Gen. Buhari was chosen as head of state by senior military colleagues as someone they respected and who had proven administrative ability and the best experience in government.

That collective approach to the acquisition of power is expected to continue in government and there seems little chance that Gen. Buhari will emerge as a military dictator.

"He is first among equals who chose him, not a dictator," one diplomat said.

Although Nigeria is divided tribally and religiously, so far there have been few expressions of resentment from the Christian south that Nigeria's new head of state is yet another northern Muslim, as almost all have been since independence in 1960.

Gen. Buhari is regarded as a conservative but not fundamentalist Muslim. Outside Nigeria, he is seen as a serious, conservative, rather ascetic man who will probably maintain oil prices over the next few months.

"He is conservative in the sense that he won't bolt the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) or reduce pri-



Ousted Shagari



Gen. Buhari

ces unilaterally. Our best guess is that he will concentrate on internal problems and try to keep (oil) production and sales up in the short term," an oil company executive said in the United States.

He is a familiar figure in OPEC where he represented Nigeria in the final years of military government before Mr. Shagari took over. Oil sales give Nigeria over 45 per cent of its foreign exchange income.

Oil industry sources in Lagos who knew Gen. Buhari as oil minister and head of the NNPC said he had solid knowledge of the international oil market and was easily accessible to industry officials.

They said that while the new military leader was better placed to take swifter decisions on oil policy than his civilian predecessor, they did not expect that such decisions would be radically out of line with OPEC's oil policy. Gen. Buhari has said Nigeria will remain in OPEC.

A professional soldier who did his officer training in Britain, which gave him his English accent, Gen. Buhari served as military governor of the vast north-eastern Borno state.

Gen. Buhari was a member of the previous military gov-

ernment's highest ruling body, the Supreme Military Council.

A United Nations economist said: "When I met him, I thought him a very cool and collected person, not flamboyant, demagogic or effervescent. He worked well with his technical advisers when he was in charge of oil."

Gen. Buhari is the seventh leader of Africa's most populous country since it became independent from Britain in 1960.

He won a reputation for toughness when he commanded a unit at the north-eastern border with Chad where a brief border conflict erupted last year.

One diplomat praised Gen. Buhari's thoughtfulness, saying: "He thinks about what he says before he says it and doesn't say things carelessly. He is a worldly, disciplined man, not your typical strongman."

Gen. Buhari was born on Dec. 17, 1942, in the village of Quara in northern Kaduna state. He attended provincial schools and the Nigerian Military Training College where he attracted the attention of British colonial officers who sent him to cadet school in Aldershot, England.

He is married and has two daughters.

Brunei: World's richest, newest independent state

By Chris Sherwell

The people of Brunei, the tiny Muslim sultanate which assumed full independence from Britain on Jan. 1, are the first to acknowledge that their country is not what it was. Invaders and colonial expansion ended their domination of the huge island of Borneo, from which the country derives its name, and crowded them into a sandy corner which has itself been divided awkwardly into two.

But Bruneians are far from unhappy. They believe God has left them the best part, and it is a judgment fully supported by the country's fabulous oil wealth. Brunei's 200,000 people are near the top of the world wealth table with a per capita GDP of at least \$22,000 a year and probably more.

For visitors to the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan, the results are easily visible. They include a small airport boasting one of the longest runways in Asia, a vast floodlit sports stadium built for the 1985 South East Asian Games, a sparkling new hospital with the most up-to-date facilities and equipment and, controversially, the stunning riverside palace for the sultan, Sir Muda Hassanal Bolkiah, which has been described as a modern Versailles and cost hundreds of millions of dollars.

Emergency laws imposed by the sultan's father — who later abdicated but remains even now a power behind the throne — are still technically in force, and a battalion of Gurkhas has provided a visible measure of protection for the royal rulers. The sultan also maintains a private army recruited from retired Gurkhas.

Differences over the continued stationing of the Gurkha battalion brought independence talks with Britain close to breakdown. In April a report which suggested that the link between Shell and the Brunei government might end unless the issue was resolved was strongly denied by Brunei but caused a real flutter.

Workforce shortage

The sultan, who is 37 and has a passion for polo, has been criticised abroad for his conspicuous consumption and autocratic rule, but his subjects enjoy a life-style that would be the envy of most newly-independent nations.

Jobs are easy to come by, most families have at least two cars, petrol is cheap at 91 per imperial gallon, there is colour television and no income tax, and education and health care are free.

Small surprise, therefore, that Brunei has looked like a beacon of prosperity in a recession-hit world, and that numerous foreign companies have been beating a path to the fledgling state's door in the hope of new business. But if they can find something to do, they are expected to involve Brunei citizens, which means Brunei Malays, who constitute some 70 per cent of the population.

This could entail setting up joint ventures, subcontracting to local companies or simply employing local people — a problem, because Brunei faces an acute labour shortage. Some 43 per cent of the population is under 20, and half of the rest are women.

Skills are in short supply, and this is worsened by the fact that most Brunei Malays prefer to work for the government or in the oil sector.

A Shell paradise

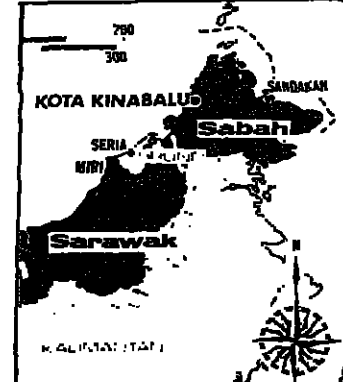
Shell has long dominated the exploration, development and production of oil and gas, and this sector is still responsible for four-fifths of the country's output and 99 per cent of its exports, valued at more than \$4 billion in 1981.

The government has had a 50 per cent stake in Brunei Shell Petroleum, the main company, since 1975, which gives it a potent influence in policy at a time when reserves are known to be finite and need careful husbanding. Officially, there is enough oil to last into the next century.

Ex-British colony

The government, having controlled all but defence and external affairs since 1959, likes to point out that the country is self-governing and that, if anything, it is "resuming" its independence after a treaty relationship with Britain that stretches back to the mid-19th century.

The key question, however, and



one which dogged negotiations with Britain, concerns security. The issue is traceable to 1962, when moves towards introducing more popular government were halted by a revolt led by the Brunei People's Party. This was sparked by the prospect of Brunei joining the Federation of Malaysia, and had to be quelled by British troops.

Emergency laws imposed by the sultan's father — who later abdicated but remains even now a power behind the throne — are still technically in force, and a battalion of Gurkhas has provided a visible measure of protection for the royal rulers. The sultan also maintains a private army recruited from retired Gurkhas.

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\$12b surplus

In July the sultan ended the arrangements with the Crown Agents to manage Brunei funds and passed this lucrative contract — Brunei has foreign reserves totalling some \$12 billion — to Morgan Guaranty and Citibank, who will advise the newly-formed Brunei Investment Agency.

At the same time it is reckoned that worries over a possible repeat of the 1962 episode have subsided because of the sharp rise in standards of living in Brunei, and that the bitterness which has animated past relations with Malaysia or Indonesia has evaporated. But elections in Brunei are unlikely, and political parties remain banned.

Asean member

The acceptance of Brunei into the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) — which embraces Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines — is reckoned to be the new state's best guarantee of stability. Admission as Asean's sixth member is due to be confirmed on Jan. 7.

One potential source of dissatisfaction in future could conceivably lie in the ranks of the civil service, as ambitious and well-trained administrators find avenues of promotion blocked by those now taking on the enormous responsibilities of full nationhood.

A more clearly expressed concern is the fate of the local Chinese community, who are known simply as "residents" and number more than 40,000. Even though they may have lived in Brunei for generations, they can only become citizens by passing a difficult written and oral language test to show proficiency in Malay. Yet as non-citizens they cannot own land and therefore have less of a stake in the country.

For them, Brunei's transformation is an occasion for genuine worry, even though there have been reassuring noises from the government, and Britain has expressed its satisfaction over the matter. — Financial Times news feature.

Landlocked countries struggle in a world that is mostly water

By Joy Aschenbach

WASHINGTON — In a world that is more than 70 per cent water, countries without seacoasts are like fish out of water. Somebody else's territory cuts them off from the sea.

Today 30 of the world's 167 independent countries are landlocked, the number more than doubling since World War I. Half of them are among the 36 least developed countries on Earth, according to the United Nations — the poorest of the poor.

Generally small in size, landlocked countries are as different as Switzerland and Swaziland, the Vatican and Mongolia. Fourteen are in Africa, nine in Europe, five in Asia, and two in South America.

Dependent on their neighbours on the coast for the lifeline of goods, they are often the victims of somebody else's war, dock strike, trade embargo, tolls, and priorities. In a world in which about 80 per cent of all goods in international trade move by sea for at least part of their voyage, landlocked countries are cut off from the main flow of trade.

Europe the exception

Bolivia, bitterly battling to regain the coast it lost a century ago, stages an annual reminder of its national claustrophobia, *Dia del Mar*, Day of the Sea. Nepal must put up with some of the worst transportation snags — between the port of Calcutta and its own Kathmandu. And in Uganda, people must pay more for imported powdered milk than their neighbours across the border in coastal Kenya.

Only in Europe is the geographic handicap barely noticeable.

That smallest continent's efficient rail and river network and integrated economic system help keep its diverse landlocked members prosperous. But neutral Switzerland in the Alps finds it necessary to maintain a small fleet of merchant ships that fly the Swiss flag — in case of a crisis. They mainly use German and French ports.

As a group, landlocked countries have banded together and won at least worldwide recognition of their special problems in getting to and from the sea. But in the recent rush to the sea's resources among industrial nations, they have been left behind.

The new United Nations Law of the Sea Treaty puts these increasingly important resources farther out of the reach of landlocked

countries. "The adoption of a 200-mile exclusive economic zone for coastal countries pushes landlocked countries at least another 188 nautical miles away from free access," explained geographer Martin I. Glassner, of Southern Connecticut State University, a leading authority on landlocked countries.

Previously, living resources beyond a 12-mile limit — in some cases three-mile — were available to anyone. Most of the fish, known oil and gas reserves, and economically accessible minerals are within 200 miles of the shore.

Geographic accidents

The harsh geographic and political fact: In most cases coastal countries hold all the cards.

Why then did some countries wind up landlocked? Most of them simply grew up that way, an accident of geography that placed them in the interiors of continents or of vast empires. For many, especially in Africa, their landlocked status came with independence and the end of colonialism. The newest state is Zimbabwe, which achieved independence in 1980.

Bolivia — one of only a couple of landlocked countries that once had a seacoast — lost it to Chile in the War of the Pacific (1879-84).

"The ocean is ours and we want it back," a government official said. The most aggressive nation in seeking a *salida al Mar* Bolivia had made this a consistent theme in its foreign policy throughout the 20th century, explained Mr. Glassner, who has long studied the Bolivian situation with support recently from the National Geographic Society.

In Europe, modern Austria, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia ended up landlocked remnants of the Austro-Hungarian Empire following its collapse after World War I.

In Asia, arid Mongolia, the largest of the world's landlocked countries with more than 600,000 square miles, emerged as an independent buffer state lying between the Soviet Union and China.

Being landlocked wasn't always a handicap. Hundreds of years ago it could have been considered an asset. Mr. Glassner said. "The hermit kingdom, isolated, with mountain ramparts to protect it, was far from foreign wars, invaders, pirates, and even hurricanes."

Poor and landlocked

World wars and trade changed that. The lack of a seacoast became a serious problem after

World War II. Mr. Glassner explained, as more newly independent states struck out on their own and sought to join in a world of expanding international trade.

Nowhere is the situation more severe than in Africa and Asia, particularly Africa. All 15 landlocked countries on the U.N.'s "least developed" country list are found on these two continents. Even many of their coastal neighbours are poor.

Poor and landlocked, they are caught in a vicious cycle. Goods going into and out of the country cost more, are often delayed, damaged — or mysteriously disappear. And these countries have little to bargain with.

"One of Niger's biggest miseries besides drought is being cut off from the sea," said Doka Tahrou Barke, a counselor at the African country's embassy in Washington. "Prices on nearly everything imported or exported are higher."

Once part of French West Africa, Niger is about two-thirds desert, has no railroad, and only one or two flights a day in and out of the country. And like many landlocked countries, it has few resources.

"We have some uranium mines in the north, but the uranium has to be trucked hundreds of miles to ports in Togo or Benin. Even if we found oil, our neighbour Nigeria already has oil that's nearer to the sea, with its own port," the counselor said.

Troubled Uganda at times has had its lifeline severed, particularly during the regime of former President Idi Amin. The border between Uganda and Kenya was closed for some time in 1976 after the Israeli rescue of the Entebbe Airport hostages. There were severe petroleum shortages not only in Uganda, but in its "doubly landlocked" neighbour, Rwanda, whose supplies were routed through Uganda.

Few Options

Landlockedness leaves some countries with few options. In spite of Botswana's opposition to apartheid, it must maintain good relations with white-ruled South Africa, which surrounds it on three sides. Tiny black Lesotho, completely enclosed by South Africa, also is forced into alliances with its adversary.

Strikes on the docks of Calcutta, India, have halted the flow of goods to lofty Nepal. "Landlocked countries are always dependent upon normal conditions elsewhere," Mr. Glassner pointed out. "If there's a strike at the seaport, there's nothing they can do

about it. They can't send in the troops or even negotiate. All they can do is sit and wait."

Even under normal circumstances, transit agreements don't always run smoothly. "Goods sometimes get held up at the port for one to six months. There are clearance problems, and we have to have more meetings," said an official at the Nepalese embassy in Washington. To end the reliance on a single port, he said, Nepal is seeking a second outlet to the sea, via another neighbour, Bangladesh.

Landlocked Afghanistan was once cut off from the Arabian Sea for almost two years when hostilities closed the border to Pakistan. Before the series of closings in the 1950s and '60s, Karachi served as Afghanistan's principal seaport. Afghanistan turned to the Soviet Union for overland routes to other ports; the Pakistani port never regained its position.

The ideal solution for landlocked countries would be to dissolve the international border between them and the sea by merging with a coastal state. But that hasn't happened often — only once since World War II, when Ethiopia's Emperor Haile Selassie absorbed Eritrea, on the Red Sea. Today guerrilla groups are fighting for Eritrea's independence.

Corridors to the sea

The next best solution is through international treaties setting minimum standards for right of access, or regional economic alliances among neighbouring coastal nations.

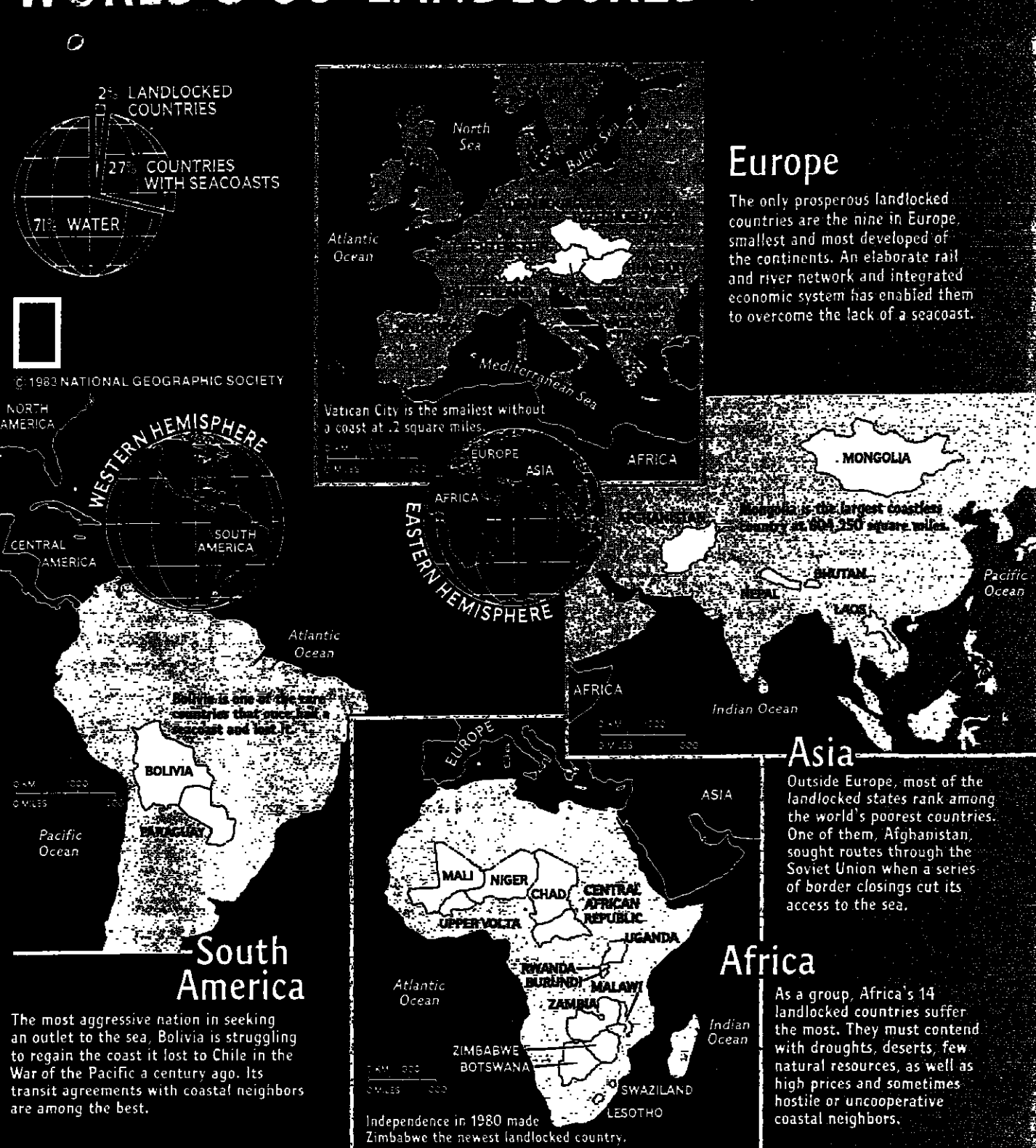
The first worldwide attempt to deal with freedom of transit was made by the League of Nations after World War I. The importance of a coast was embodied in the relatively new concept: "Corridors to the sea. Various post-war agreements granted corridors to countries such as Poland, Iraq, and what was then Transjordan.

Some countries wound up "barely coastal." Iraq has a sliver of land on the Arabian Gulf. Today's Jordan has a short seacoast on the Gulf of Aqaba.

Although such barely coastal states share some of the same problems as landlocked countries, "there's all the difference in the world between a coastline of even 500 yards and no coastline at all," Mr. Glassner said.

In 1965 the U.N. Conference on Transit Trade of Landlocked Countries marked the first time that an international lawmaking conference dealt exclusively with the question of access to the sea, particularly for those developing countries in Africa, Asia, and

WORLD'S 30 LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES



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South America.

In the U.N. Law of the Sea Treaty adopted in 1982, landlocked countries gained a general recognition of their "right" of access to the sea, but only of "freedom" of transit across coastal countries.

"No coastal country is willing to admit that landlocked countries have a right of transit across their territory because that would be an

infringement on their sovereign power over their land," Mr. Glassner said. "Without a 'right' of transit, 'right' of access is meaningless."

Outside of Europe, the most successful regional transportation agreements have been worked out between Bolivia and its neighbours, and among the Economic Community of West Afr-

ican States.

No more Switzerlands

Although no nation in recent times has actually gone out of business by being landlocked, it's unlikely that any of the developing landlocked nations will overcome their handicap enough to become other Switzerlands.

Are there any places whose futures are landlocked? Possibly, but not probably. Mr. Glassner suggests. Some possibilities: If Zaire's mineral-rich Shaba (Katanga) Province were successful in its attempt to secede, it disputed and divided Kashmir became independent from India and Pakistan, they would be landlocked.

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Windies beats Australia in 1st World Series match

MELBOURNE (R) — The West Indies beat Australia by 27 runs here Sunday in the opening cricket match of the World Series Cup.

Australia, chasing the West Indies total of 221 for seven in their 50 overs, were all out for 194 in 46 overs.

West Indies vice captain Viv Richards, who hit a powerful 53 to help his side to recover from a poor start and later claimed the wicket of John Maguire, was named Man of the Match.

Richards and his skipper Clive Lloyd came together with the score at 34 for two after Lloyd had won the toss and elected to bat. They put on 103 runs to lead the West Indies to a solid total with late support from Eldine Baptiste, unbeaten on 28, and Larry Gomes with 21.

Rodney Hogg was the most impressive of the Australian bowlers with three for 29 in his 19 overs.

Australia also made a bad start, losing Kepler Wessels for seven, Wayne Phillips for 10 and Kim

Hughes for five.

When Wayne Daniel had Greg Matthews caught behind by Jeff Dujon for two, Australia was in deep trouble at 44 for four.

Graham Yallop, injured while fielding during the morning, could not take his usual high spot in the batting order, but Allan Border, with an unbeaten 84, revived Australia's chances.

Veteran wicketkeeper Rod Marsh hit 31 but fell with the score on 108 and Australia added only seven runs for the next two wickets.

Pace bowler Rodney Hogg hit 21 and the injured Yallop 13 in a desperate rearguard action but the end came when Carl Rackemann was run out for two.

The West Indies pace bowlers shared the wickets, with Malcolm Marshall returning the best figures of two for 25 off nine overs, while sharp fielding by the West Indies

earned three run-outs.

Afterwards Lloyd said his bowlers had not performed as well they could.

"But it's our first game in Australia and we can only get better," he said. "We now know what to do."

Australian captain Kim Hughes said he was disappointed at losing but was pleased with his side's determination.

"Yallop's injury completely upset our batting line-up," Hughes said. "But I was absolutely thrilled with our fightback and it was a good bowling effort to restrict them to 221."

But Hughes said the Australian fielding had to improve by at least 20 per cent.

"I know we can do a lot better," he said.

South Australian skipper David Hookes, who has not played international cricket this season, has been recalled to the Australian side to replace Yallop for Tuesday's day-night match against Pakistan in Sydney.



UNITED OUT OF THE CUP

Bournemouth striker Milton Graham (right) scores against First Division Manchester United in the 60th minute of the English Football Association Cup third-round tie at Bournemouth, England.

Saturday when the Third Division home side knocked their opponents out of the competition 2-0. United goalie Gary Bailey (centre) is beaten as Lou Macari (12) left, prepares to intercept in vain. (A.P. wirephoto)

Gomez upsets Lendl in champions tennis

ROSEMONT, Illinois (R) — Andres Gomez of Ecuador surprised a crowd of nearly 10,000 at the \$250,000 Challenge of Champions Tennis Tournament here Saturday night when he defeated defending champion Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 in their semifinal clash.

Gomez will meet Jimmy Connors of the U.S. who beat Poland's Wojtek Fibak 6-7, 6-3, 6-3 in the other semifinal.

Gomez, ranked 14th on the computer, used deft placement, his long reach and speed over the court to befuddle the world's second-ranked player.

"He can hit winners from any position on the court and that's really dangerous," Lendl said. "He always gave me trouble and if I hadn't expected a hard match tonight I would have been fooling myself."

In the final set, Lendl, who had been limping, asked his trainer to look at his ankle and after having

it iced and wrapped he returned to the court.

"It didn't hurt me to run once I got it taped, but the thought of it was still there," Lendl admitted.

The Czechoslovak is expected to be fit for the Masters tournament starting in New York on Tuesday where he is the defending champion.

Gomez said he was thrilled with his win and looked forward to meeting Connors.

"We've been practising together the last three days. I've been getting killed. But it's going to be different tomorrow. If I play as well as I did today and he doesn't play as well, it's going to be a good final."

"The people here tonight weren't expecting a good match and they got a great one," Gomez said.

The winner will collect \$100,000 and the runnerup will get \$50,000.

Slozil, Smid stunningly reach World Doubles final

LONDON (R) — Czechoslovak Davis Cup pair Pavel Slozil and Tomas Smid caused the biggest upset of the WCT World Doubles Tennis Championship to reach the final at the Royal Albert Hall here Saturday night.

Slozil and Smid toppled second-seeded Americans Fritz Buehning and Peter Fleming 6-7, 7-5, 6-3, 6-4 in the semifinal and face Swedes Anders Jarryd and Hans Simonsson in Sunday's final.

The Swedish Davis Cup combination went through with a 6-4, 7-6, 5-7, 7-6 victory in the other semifinal match over American Sherwood Stewart and Australia's Mark Edmondson.

Slozil and Smid hit peak form after losing the opening set against the giant American pair — both are 1.96 metres tall — who were expected to give their opponents a drubbing.

But Buehning, who played sup-

erly in the previous matches, lost his touch after the first set and the Czechoslovaks capitalised convincingly.

Jarryd and Simonsson, who have improved with every match here since losing their first, were too sharp for the oldest and most experienced combination.

Stewart, 37, and Edmondson, 29, had no answer to the consistently fine serving and accurate returning of the Swedes, who also kept cool in a fourth set crisis when Simonsson lost his service to trail 4-5.

They hit back by breaking Edmondson immediately and went on to take the tie break — and the match — 7-5.

The final in the \$186,200 event will be the first all-European contest in the tournament's 12-year history, and no American player will be involved for the first time since 1973.

Mandlikova defeats fellow Czechoslovak, reaches final

WASHINGTON (R) — Hana Mandlikova defeated fellow Czechoslovak Helena Sukova 6-1, 7-6 (7-5) with a successful serve and volley game Saturday to reach the final of a \$150,000 women's tennis tournament here.

Sukova hit many shots into the net and said afterwards: "I had a

slow start and I just couldn't get into the match. Anything I did didn't work. Whatever she tried worked for her."

In the final, Mandlikova will play Zina Garrison who had a 6-0, 5-7, 6-2 win over fellow American Pam Cessale.

Record-breaking Budd can go even faster, says coach

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's barefoot running star Zola Budd, who shattered the women's 5,000 metres world record last Thursday night, has the potential to run even faster, according to leading British coach Wilf Paise.

Paise was at a Windswept Stellenbosch stadium as the tiny 17-year-old covered the distance in 15 minutes 1.83 seconds.

Caulkins of U.S. returns to top form, wins 2nd event

AUSTIN, Texas (R) — Tracy Caulkins of the United States celebrated a return to top form by winning a second event Saturday at an international swimming meeting here.

Caulkins, who on Friday won the 200-metre individual medley, outstroked Kathleen Nord of East Germany in Saturday's 400-metre individual medley. She is the U.S. record holder in both events.

Astid Strauss of East Germany and Czechoslovakia's Josef Hladky also took their second events. Strauss used an outstanding kick to win the women's 400-metre freestyle Saturday after taking the women's 1,500-metre freestyle on Friday.

Hladky followed his victory in the 200-metre individual medley with a win in the 400-metre individual medley.

Caulkins has won 47 U.S. titles, more than any other swimmer.

But she has not been in top form for the past two years and nearly missed this weekend's competition because of an infected cyst under one arm.

Friday's victory was her biggest international win in four years. "I knew I'd be mad at myself if I started feeling better on Friday and hadn't entered this meet," she said. "I'm glad I came."

Nord pushed Caulkins hard, but she held on for a win in 4:47.31 to the East German's 4:47.46.

Strauss, ranked second behind Tiffany Chosen of the United States in the 400 metres came in 0:70 ahead of the high school senior in 4:01.05.

"I feel I controlled the race," she said. "I swam the time I wanted to swim. My sprint at the end came from within. Ever since I was small, I've always been able to have that kick."

A total of five pool records were

set Saturday, including a mark of 0:55.90 in the men's 100-metre backstroke by American Rick Carey who later led the U.S. team to victory in the 400-metre medley relay.

East Germany's Kristin Otto set a pool record in the women's 100-metre backstroke with a time of 1:02.61, beating teammate Katrin Zimmermann by three-tenths of a second.

Other pool records were in the men's 200-metre breaststroke by Canadian world record holder Victor Davis, in the women's 200-metre breaststroke by Japan's Hiroko Nagasaki (2:30.27) and in the women's 50-metre freestyle by 15-year-old Dara Torres of the United States.

Siong Ang of Singapore, a student at the University of Houston, won the men's 50-metre freestyle in 23.87 ahead of U.S. sprinters Rowdy Gaines, Chris Cavanaugh and Robin Leamy.

Hladky won the 400-metre individual medley by edging out the American record holder in the event, Jesse Vassallo, with a time of 4:24.24. Darian Petrio of Yugoslavia was the other individual winner, capturing the men's 400-metre freestyle.

Hladky said: "I think I am in top form. I am pleased with the competition here and I was glad I could do well again today, especially against a good swimmer like Vassallo."

Record entries for winter Olympics

SARAJEVO, Yugoslavia (R) — Sarajevo is ready to greet a record number of nations and athletes attending the 14th winter Olympics next month.

The men's and women's alpine and nordic skiing courses, the bobsleigh and luge tracks, and the figure skating and ice hockey rinks are standing by awaiting the arrival of the competitors.

And the Olympic villages for both athletes and journalists have been opened to receive their first lodgers.

Even the weather has been kind: After a longish spring-like spell in December the snow finally fell in Yugoslavia last week covering the mountains with a 35-cm thick layer.

Special teams immediately sta-

rted preparing the alpine and nordic courses although the organisers say they were never worried because records showed there was no February without snow covering the mountains around Sarajevo.

On the Bjelasnica mountain Saturday a company of Yugoslav soldiers began stamping down the snow on the men's slalom and giant slalom courses.

"We can't guarantee the weather, but we know we've done all that is humanly possible," Pavle Lukac, a senior official in the organising committee said.

A record 45 nations have so far entered for the games well ahead of the January 29 deadline. They include 1,577 athletes, 1,217 men and 360 women — also a record.

The previous highest figures were in Innsbruck, Austria, in 1976 and in Lake Placid, New York, in 1980 when 37 national teams took part. At the first winter Olympics in Chamonix, France, 16 countries competed in 1924.

Among the fast entries this week were Cyprus, Bolivia and Puerto Rico with one athlete.

Officials said the record entry for the Sarajevo Olympics was encouraged by the offer from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to pay expenses for the first three competitors from each of the smaller member-nations.

The 13-day games will start on February 7 with the Austria-Finland ice hockey match, but the official opening ceremony will be held on the eighth.

Juventus go top of Italian league

ROME (R) — European Footballer of the Year Michel Platini of France put Juventus on the road to a thrilling 4-2 win over Genoa Sunday to take the Turin side a point clear at the top of the Italian first division.

But Platini's Brazilian rival Zico joined him as the League's top marksman on 11 goals after scoring twice in Udinese's hard-fought 3-3 draw at AC Milan.

Genoa twice drew level with Juventus, who went ahead through Platini after 23 minutes when he moved on to Marco Tardelli's free kick and flighted a cunning ball past Genoa keeper Silvano Martina.

But Genoa silenced the Stadio Comunale crowd six minutes later when winger Massimo Briaschi escaped his marker to shoot home from the edge of the penalty area. Juventus needed just three

minutes to restore their lead. Antonio Cabriai heading home a long, deep cross. But with half an hour to go, Paolo Benedetti guided home a delicate header to pull Genoa level a second time.

But the league leaders refused to be denied and went ahead again when Domenico Penzo scored direct from a free kick. Paolo Rossi made sure of maximum points for Juventus when he netted his 10th goal of the season from the penalty spot after Platini had been fouled.

Torino moved into second place in the table following their goalless draw at Napoli, with champions Roma, who lost 1-0 at Verona to a second half goal by Antonio Di Gennaro, a point further back third. Fiorentina and Verona are equal fourth.

AC Milan went ahead early against Udinese when Franco Baresi

converted a penalty. Zico netted the equaliser when he helped an Antonio Viridis header over the line, but Udinese fell 3-1 down towards the end of the first half when midfielder Vinicio Verza and English striker Luther Blissett both found the net.

But Zico pulled Udinese back into the match with his second goal moments later and veteran midfielder Franco Causio grabbed an unexpected equaliser with four minutes to go.

Florentina captain Giancarlo Antognoni missed a penalty against Avellino, but made amends later when he crossed for Argentine Daniel Bertoni to head home and secure their 1-0 win.

Pisa clinched their first match of the season with a 1-0 win over struggling Lazio, while championship contenders Sampdoria crashed 2-1 at home against Ascoli.

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Money changes prosper in M.E.

BEIRUT (R) — The scene is a dingy, 4-roomed apartment in a backstreet in west Beirut. The kitchen table is littered with cups sticky with Turkish coffee grounds, and several million dollars in banknotes.

An unshaven man in slacks, an open-necked shirt and a tweed jacket that has seen better days sacks \$2 million in neat bundles into a cheap plastic zip bag.

Muttering farewells to his friends, he heads out alone and unarmed with his load into the rubble-strewn streets of this war-ravaged capital.

The man is a courier, heading for Zurich where he will exchange the banknotes for gold bars.

The scene is one repeated dozens of times daily in Beirut, Amman and other cities around the Middle East where a multi-billion dollar trade in banknotes, gold and silver is an integral part of daily life.

His employers are 3 Lebanese brothers who daily buy and sell \$2 to \$3 million in Arab and international currency banknotes and some 50 kilos (110 pounds) gold worth around \$750,000. They are one of about a dozen such firms around the region

which channel banknotes from hundreds of smaller money-changers to where they are needed at any given time.

They owe their existence and their prosperity to the Arab world's continuing mistrust of bank accounts, travellers' cheques and credit cards, and its hunger for readily accepted assets amid the uncertainties of everyday life.

The tools of their trade are computers and sophisticated electronic information systems, displaying their own gold and banknote exchange rates and keeping them in minute-to-minute touch with movements in the world's financial markets.

They are also an essential part of a billion-dollar business in smuggling banknotes and gold into countries such as Syria and Egypt, which have strict controls on foreign currency and other assets.

Turkey, too, was an important destination for the smugglers, until its newly elected government abolished such restrictions just a few days ago.

The cash and bullion moves easily across national borders, by land, sea and air. The so-called "re-export" trade is highly illegal in the countries receiving the

"imports."

But border guards can easily be persuaded to look the other way, the smugglers say.

Jordanian explains trade

In another unprepossessing office off a main street in Amman, a money-changer is explaining the smuggling trade. Gold, he says, is only a small part of his business in comparison to currency.

What volume? "About two tonnes a month," he shrugs, lightly dismissing a trade representing \$180 million a year.

The customers are Damascus or Cairo merchants, needing the currency to finance their imports of foreign goods, or Arab women loading their wrists with gold bangles as their insurance against the vagaries of life.

"Arab women are the world's best economists," he explains. "When the gold price falls, they buy more jewelry. When it rises, they sell. They follow the market as closely as any trader in Zurich." But a Beirut banker laughingly derides their lack of financial sophistication.

"Why bother with all that smug-

gling backwards and forwards," he asks. "I could keep it all in a gold or foreign currency account for them here. But they don't trust paper. They like to have it in their hands, to keep it under their beds or on their arms."

The couriers fly daily around the region, from Beirut to Jeddah, from Amman to Dubai, with their packages of Arab banknotes, occasionally slipping in to Zurich to exchange unneeded dollars, Deutschmarks or sterling for gold bars.

In the West, the shipments they carry would travel in armoured, palatial trucks, guarded by squads of armed security men. Here, they take a taxi to the airport.

Yet, despite the violence that has become an almost daily part of life in Beirut, robberies are almost unheard of.

Nobody is quite sure why. "It just doesn't happen," a money-changer says. "But they're insured anyway."

Is the value of their packages never too much of a temptation to men unlikely to earn so much in their entire lives?

He shakes his head. "It's all a matter of trust," he adds.

Saudi Arabia devalues riyal

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia Sunday devalued the riyal to 3.51 from 3.50 to the dollar, a spokesman for the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) said.

He said SAMA announced the move Sunday morning. It was the second devaluation of the riyal in two weeks.

Dealers said the move had been expected because of the recent sharp rise of the U.S. dollar on international currency markets.

SAMA devalued to 3.50 riyals from 3.48 to the dollar on Dec. 25 after weeks of speculation that such a move was imminent.

Interest rates on large Saudi riyal deposits at offshore banks in Bahrain fell after the Saudi devaluation announcement.

Dealers said the devaluation had been widely expected as the dollar rose to its highest level in more than 10 years. The U.S. currency closed in New York on Friday at 2.8185/8200 marks and rose in weekend Gulf trading to 2.8195/8225 marks.

Riyal deposit interest rates fell at least 1-4 percentage point in reaction to the SAMA move as banks reduced their borrowings in riyals in quiet trading.

Last week, banks increased their riyal borrowings, expecting to settle in devalued currency, and had converted the borrowed funds into dollars.

Dealers said Sunday's devaluation would take some pressure off the Saudi currency, but they did not rule out a further riyal devaluation if the dollar continued to strengthen.

A riyal devaluation will help reduce Saudi Arabia's budget deficit, which was estimated for 1983 at about \$10 billion, as its oil revenues are paid in dollars and much of its budget expenditure are made in riyals.

European Airbus — the \$3 billion dilemma

In the next few months Mrs. Margaret Thatcher will make a decision which is vital to the future of the new European Airbus.

In an exercise in industrial lobbying which could prove crucial for European efforts to challenge the U.S. in civil aircraft manufacture, British Aerospace will serve up a detailed presentation of the planned four-nation project to build the 150-seat A-320.

Industry executives' nerves will be quivering at the thought of how Mrs. Thatcher reacts — and not just in the U.K. Aerospace in France and West Germany's Messerschmitt-Boelkow-Blohm, which together with CASA of Spain are the other shareholders in the Airbus Industrie consortium, are looking for firm backing from Britain to allow the much-delayed A-320 project to get under way.

Signals will also be picked up attentively in government chancelleries in Bonn and Paris, and will spread as far afield as Seattle, headquarters of the world's dominant aircraft manufacturer, Boeing.

Mrs. Thatcher will have a decisive influence on the U.K. government's decision on whether to grant British Aerospace up to £400 million to support U.K. participation in the A-320.

This is not just one of the largest industrial development decisions of the Conservatives' last 4½

years. On it may also depend the fate of the several billion dollars (much of it funded, directly or indirectly, by the taxpayer) already put up by European countries over the last decade to finance aircraft collaboration.

At stake, according to Sir Austin Pearce, British Aerospace chairman, is "the fundamental question — does Europe want an aircraft industry of its own capable of being competitive, or does it want to become merely a subcontractor to the U.S.?"

Airbus Industrie is owned 37.9 per cent each by Aerospatiale (French government-owned) and Deutsche Airbus (now a 100 per cent subsidiary of MBB, which has some important public sector shareholders and merged in 1980 with the VFW aircraft group); 20 per cent by British Aerospace (owned 48 per cent by the U.K. government and 52 per cent by private shareholders, following denationalisation in 1981); and 4.2 per cent by CASA (Spanish government-owned).

Because of huge development and production costs at the start of the aircraft-building programme, all shareholders have made losses from Airbus operations. The A-300/310 projects will not reach break-even until well into the 1980s at least: the A-320, until the 1990s.

There is little doubt in France and Germany, the main sha-

reholders in Airbus, that the A-320 should go ahead. But when the green light will be given depends crucially on decisions taken in London.

The project will require roughly \$3 billion over the rest of the decade, mainly from government funds, to finance development and initial production costs. Airbus Industrie is calling for the project to be firmly launched by the end of the year in order for the first A-320 to roll off the production line by spring 1988.

The A-320, which will offer considerable savings in fuel costs compared with existing aircraft, has been talked about for five years. But its launch, originally scheduled for two years ago, has been put back continuously because of the crushing recession in the world airline industry.

All the partners accept Airbus Industrie's thesis that a large market will exist for the A-320 from 1988 onwards: much of it "stealing" from replacements (largely fuel-thirsty aircraft now in service).

The A-320 has a total of 42 firm and 38 optional orders from Air France, Air Inter (the French domestic airline) — both controlled by the French government — and British Caledonian, which was the first independent airline, to choose, on purely commercial grounds, the A-320 rather than rivals from Boeing and McDonnell Douglas.

But financial commitments to support the project have come so far only from the French government.

The Bonn government, like the British, is still agonising over whether to put up funds, and is due to discuss the matter at cabinet level.

The need for a decision is pressing.

"If we don't launch the A-320 before around the end of the year, we will never launch it," says Mr. Michel Lagorce, director of civil aviation programmes at the French ministry of transport.

Sir Austin stresses the launch aid request — like all the cash put up by European government support every Airbus programme — is for a deferred interest loan. The £400 million (\$598 million) would be paid out over the rest of the decade, not in a lump sum. "The money is not a subsidy or a free gift. We will pay back the loan, with interest and profits, during the 1990s."

This target may, however, represent only pious hopes. Since the U.K. set up launch aid in 1949, officials say the government has had a "less than satisfactory" return on aircraft support.

All three governments face, to a greater or lesser extent, a number of dilemmas, sharpened by the downturn in world airline sales. On the one hand the downturn has bitten deeply into orders and production of the existing range of wide-body Airbus (the 250-passenger A-300 and the newer 220-seat A-310).

On the other hand, the recession has underlined that Airbus must increase its range of airliners. The narrow-body A-320 is the logical addition.

The key government dilemmas are:

Industrial policy: None of the three governments — especially London and Bonn, being most ideologically committed to free markets — dispenses money lightly on building up industrial sectors. But Europe faces a choice.

Either it supports its aircraft industry with budgetary cash now, in the hope of returns, or at least repayment of development costs, over the next 10 to 20 years.

Or else it allows Boeing, which has profited itself from considerable direct and indirect U.S. government support over the years, to build up a monopoly — a position equally unwelcome to three-marketters.

Boeing claims to be untainted by government support. It launches regular broadsides against Airbus subsidies. But the company admits that it built up its post-war jet airliner success — vital for financing later production runs — partly with government help.

the market for the A-320 exists. According to the independent British government study, carried out with the aid of seconded businessmen and mathematical forecasting models, the overall market for planes of this size is about 3,500 over the next 20 years or so.

The difficulty is to pick the right date for the plane's entry into service. Complicating the forecasts, this time — unlike with the launch of the widebody Airbus — the Europeans are pitching into markets in direct competition with the U.S.

Boeing and McDonnell Douglas are offering derivative aircraft, the 737-300 and the MD 80, in the same plane class. Boeing also threatens to bring in a new plane, the 7 Dash 7, to compete directly with the A-320, while McDonnell Douglas has a design for a MD-330H.

Employment: European companies lack U.S.-style flexibility to reduce workforces in response to demand slumps. Boeing has cut

staff by 23,000 — about 25 per cent — over the past three years.

British Aerospace, Aerospatiale and MBB, which together employ about 25,000 people on Airbus programmes, and give sub-contracting work to many thousands more, are relatively over-manned. They urgently need the A-320 to maintain employment.

Overshadowing the employment question in the U.K. is the perennial debate over whether British aircraft companies would do better to collaborate with the U.S. rather than Europe.

The U.K. government shares the view of Airbus Industrie that a proposed multinational aircraft engine, the IAE-2500, to be built principally by Rolls-Royce and Pratt and Whitney, could be used to power the A-320. This could supplement the Franco-American CFM-56-4 engine which is the first choice.

Rolls-Royce is seeking about £100 million in British government launch aid for the IAE-2500. Ministers will study the dossier at about the same time as British Aerospace's application.

Britain will give the A-320 project its blessing if the treasury is satisfied that the programme provides a 5 per cent real rate of return over its life of 20 years or more. Yet forecasts like this can clearly never be made with certainty.

Underlining the tricky role that judgment has to play, an Aerospace executive says: "We don't want to launch this plane at any price. You need a professional approach. But a programme of this sort can hardly avoid risks."

— Financial Times news feature

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

"I get so impatient with my diets... instead of WEIGHT loss, I get WAIT loss!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HISFY
TOTID
KLINTE
BRYFLE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PANDA BILGE REFUGE GOSPEL
Answer: The little witch had to stand in the corner because she was this — A BAD "SPELLER"

Peanuts

THIS IS THE LAST DAY OF THE YEAR
ALL IN ALL, IT WASN'T SO BAD
YOU KNOW WHAT I LIKED ABOUT THIS YEAR?
I'M STILL IN IT!

Mutt 'n' Jeff

THE GAMES OVER
WELL, BOYS, WE LOST, BUT I'M PROUD OF YOU! YOU'RE REAL GOOD SPORTS!
GEE, THANKS, COACH!
WHERE'S THE REFEREE?
THERE! WE TOOK CARE OF THAT LITTLE CROOK!

Andy Capp

THERE WAS ONLY THE GOAL KEEPER BETWEEN ME AND THE POSTS, SO I JUST LOBBED IT OVER HIS HEAD —
MEN AND THEIR FLIPPIN' SPORT!
— THAT PUT US TWO IN FRONT —
MIND IF WE CHANGE THE SUBJECT?
NOT AT ALL, PET
... I WAS REALLY ON FORM AT SNOOKER LAST NIGHT. IN THE SECOND FRAME THERE WAS THIS LONG BLUE —

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Until Noon make sure that you are careful to break no promises. Until 6, strange things can occur that require astuteness on your part so be careful to get a better idea how to handle conditions.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Find best way to get out of some confusing condition in the morning and later you can study new interests, but don't commit yourself as yet.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Don't be too generous with friends today. Your feelings could have you quite mixed up if you don't use your common sense.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Take no risks with your good name in the morning. You will find that your friends are not available when you need them.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Avoid someone in the morning who wants to interfere with your job. Wait until later to discuss ideas with your boss.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Arguing with one in trade could get you into trouble in the morning. You would rather be less dependent upon others but be gracious about it.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Don't argue with a partner and avoid trouble in the morning. You have to be more tactful and diplomatic with others around you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Although there can be delays, keep busy at your work. Perseverance is the keynote now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Don't let your mate in any way in the morning. Take any health treatments that you may need. Become a more dynamic person.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Help a close tie who may be disturbed in the morning. Recreation may be too costly, so forget it. Strive to have greater security.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Be calm in any conversations with others. Don't drive if it isn't necessary. Use care with all your affairs.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Do not begin the week with lavish spending or unwise investments. Think about how you can increase your income. Be happy in the evening.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Don't try to be forceful in gaining your aims in the morning. Analyze your position. Know what it is you want in life.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be someone who will want to be educated very early in life so give as much education as possible since later the mind will turn to more practical and worldly matters, someone who will do very well in business. A family person here.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

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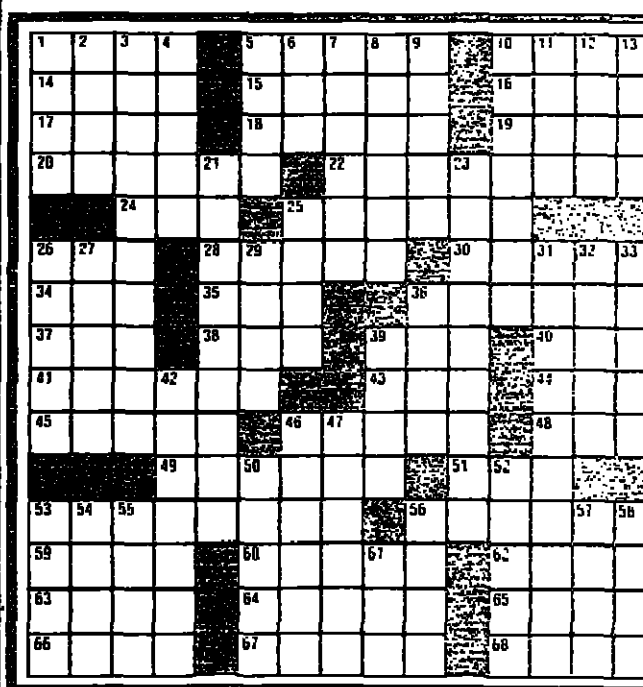
THE Daily Crossword

by Madeline Miller

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| ACROSS | 26 — diem | 49 Partner of or | 11 — avis |
| 1 Mercatorian items | 28 Lagoons | 51 Plunge | 12 Spirit |
| 5 Sunken fences | 30 Leather flask of old Greece | 53 Ramified | 13 Circus milieu |
| 10 Waste allowance | 34 Sprite | 56 Method | 21 Very satisfactory |
| 14 Arabian port | 35 Cooling drink | 59 Music of India | 23 Rash |
| 15 Wide awake | 36 First born | 60 Tidal flood | 25 — the line |
| 16 Whip mark | 37 Fuss | 62 Adriatic island | 26 Upright |
| 17 Stars rudely | 38 Food fish | 63 Shake — (thru) | 27 German city |
| 18 City on the Red River | 39 Scrooge | 64 Gloomy, postically | 29 Smell |
| 19 City in Algeria | 40 1 or 66 | 65 Assert | 31 Discerning word |
| 20 Collision | 41 Crabman, for one | 66 Pool | 32 Chemical compound |
| 22 Type of hairdo | 43 Eggs | 67 Thing of value | 33 Herd animal |
| 24 Tokyo, once | 44 Bee follower | 68 Writing on the wall | 36 Roof overhang |
| 25 Skin design | 45 Beginning | 69 African | 39 South |
| | 46 Utter | 70 Between 12 and 20 | 41 Clips wool |
| | 48 Go astray | 47 Shrubbery | 50 Bara of the silents |

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

BROWN SPAIN SPAIN
CAYIA ALABAMA SPAIN
GOLDEN GULL LITTLE
WINDING GOLF TRAIL
DICE DRY
DEFTLY BABY RASH
TIGER SEWIT ATTITU
REVELATION MATTIES
GEMIN WAGY GILLES
BER EDGE PAINTRY
SINUI FRI
CIRCULATION WARS
GOWE GLOWN AREA
HEIN THING STEIN
PAINT BELLS PELLE



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Regional divisions cause snags in Central American peace talks

PANAMA CITY (R) — Disagreements between leftist Nicaragua and its four Central American neighbours have hampered progress at crucial regional peace talks organised by the Contadora Group.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jose Zambrano said Saturday after the start of talks marking the first anniversary of the Contadora effort that there were "misunderstandings". He did not elaborate.

But Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto said his Sandinista government objected to a proposal presented by El Salvador, Guatemala, Costa Rica and Honduras. The proposal would make key changes in a peace plan offered by Contadora.

"To present completely different proposals is a rejection of the Contadora initiative," Mr. d'Escoto told reporters at the start of the talks.

The sponsors of the talks, the Contadora Group made up of Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico and Panama, issued a statement saying the talks were being conducted "with all normality".

But diplomatic sources here said the Central American nations other than Nicaragua had shown little enthusiasm for the Contadora plan.

Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge, speaking to reporters in San Jose, said, "I don't even want to think about failure (of the talks) because it will be equivalent to war."

Contadora last year approved a 21-point peace proposal aimed at ending bloody guerrilla wars in El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala. The conference this weekend was called for discussions on ways of implementing the proposals.

The plan calls for withdrawal of all foreign troops and advisers, respect for human rights and an end to the use of any country's territory as a base for aggression against another.

But the U.S.-backed Central American nations now have modified the Contadora proposal, advocating tight controls on foreign military advisers rather than their complete withdrawal. The four countries also now propose the "identification" and "control" of rebel groups without mentioning an end of support for them. Diplomats said the new pro-

posals were an attempt to isolate Nicaragua's left-wing government, which is accused by Washington of being the main cause for regional instability.

U.S.-backed rebels based in Honduras and other rebel groups based in Costa Rica have invaded Nicaragua, which has warned that further incursions could lead to war between the neighbouring nations.

Panel to insist on aid

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan's commission on Central America will recommend \$8 billion in U.S. aid for the embattled region over the next six years, but will tie it to observance of human rights and democratic practices, press reports said Sunday.

The 12-member commission, headed by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, ended work Saturday and is expected to present its report to President Reagan on Wednesday.

The New York Times said a draft of its report warns that the Soviet Union is threatening a "strategic coup of major proportions" in Central America.

The Times said the \$8 billion in U.S. military and economic aid would respond to "a direct threat to U.S. security interests."

It would include increased military aid to El Salvador and Hon-

duras, as well as resumed military aid and direct arms sales to Guatemala, cut off during the Carter administration due to human rights violations, the Times said.

The Washington Post said the report would call for Congress to certify that human rights were being respected before aid was handed out, a procedure which the Reagan administration has opposed.

It said the commission failed to agree unanimously on whether Washington should continue to aid U.S.-backed rebels fighting the leftist government in Nicaragua.

The commission also disagreed on whether left-wing rebels trying to overthrow the U.S.-supported government of El Salvador should be included in any power-sharing arrangements for forming a coalition government of national reconciliation.

The Post said the majority of the commission supported the administration's position that aid should continue to Nicaraguan rebels and that there should be no power-sharing with leftists in El Salvador.

The dissenting voices were those of two Americans of Spanish ancestry, Mayor Henry Cisneros of San Antonio, Texas, and Yale University Professor Carlos Diaz Alejandro, it said.

Goukouni in Ethiopia for peace conference

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Former Chad President Goukouni Oueddei, head of the Libyan-backed forces fighting Chad's pro-West government, arrived Sunday for talks aimed at ending his country's 18-year civil war.

After the sudden death of Chad Vice-President Idriss Misikine Saturday there was no clear indication when the Chad government delegation would arrive from N'Djamena or whether President Hissene Habre would lead it.

Diplomats in Addis Ababa suggested the death of Mr. Misikine, who was also foreign minister, might delay the talks. Officials of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), sponsoring the reconciliation talks between the two sides, said they did not know exactly when the Habre delegation would arrive, though one said it was expected Sunday or Monday.

Mr. Goukouni's representative to the OAU and Ethiopia, Jean-Baptiste Laokole, told Reuters that as far as he knew, the talks would start Monday afternoon as planned.

Mr. Goukouni's delegation of about 130 arrived in the Ethiopian capital from northern Chad via Libya, a spokesman said.

Mr. Laokole said it would be joined shortly by Colonel Wadal Abdulkader Kamougue, the second highest ranking rebel leader.

A Habre government statement issued in N'Djamena last week said 700 of Col. Kamougue's men had deserted to the Habre forces.

Mr. Misikine was said to have died in N'Djamena after sudden bout of acute malaria. His death left the talks without their main architect.

Mr. Misikine was a giant of a man who fought for President Hissene Habre on the battlefield and in the conference hall. He had been due in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa this week to make final arrangements for talks there to try to reconcile the two sides.

From the central Guera region, he teamed up with Mr. Habre, a northerner, and stood out not only because he was two metres tall but because of his soft-spoken conviction in the legitimacy of the Habre government.

Last year, when the Libyan-backed rebels of ex-President Goukouni Oueddei swept into Chad capturing major towns, Mr. Misikine was at the front with his troops while Mr. Habre was in N'Djamena appealing for Western aid.

But his contribution to Mr. Habre's efforts to gain international recognition was probably as important as his exploits in the civil war that has convulsed Chad for 18 years.

Chinese press attack Soviet nuclear arms

PEKING (R) — The Chinese press warned Sunday of the dangers of the Soviet Union's nuclear arsenal and stressed mutual Sino-U.S. strategic interests at the start of premier Zhao Ziyang's much-heralded first trip to the United States.

The Chinese Communist Party newspaper People's Daily chose the day Mr. Zhao was due to arrive on the United States mainland from Hawaii to answer Moscow's accusations that Peking was taking an anti-Soviet stance over the nuclear arms issue.

The Peking Review, the official English-language weekly, also took the opportunity to print two articles by former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and former National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski pointing out mutual Sino-U.S. interests in containing Soviet power.

The strength of the pro-American slant inherent in the timing with Mr. Zhao's trip surprised political and military analysts here, although the People's Daily followed carefully Peking's policy of even-handed criticism of the superpowers' nuclear arms race.

"They have made it perfectly obvious there is a linkage," one diplomat said.

The People's Daily replied to

the Soviet army paper Krasnaya Zvezda (Red Star) which said on Dec. 31 that China had swallowed Western propaganda wholesale and mistakenly saw Soviet missiles in Asia as a threat.

The People's Daily said: "In the opinion of Red Star, if one tries to explain what sent the world situation from bad to worse one must blame the U.S. alone and must not criticise the Soviet Union."

"(Yet) In Europe, no sooner had the U.S. started to position its Pershing 2 and cruise missiles than the Soviet Union announced it would place more new missiles in Eastern Europe and on its submarines."

Peking has made no secret recently that it views the Soviet Union as the world's main security problem.

In December Huan Xiang, director of the Peking Institute for Foreign Affairs told the West German magazine Der Spiegel: "We are closed in on three sides by the Soviet Union... therein lies the grave and direct threat of which I speak."

The same month, the New China News Agency (NCNA) said Moscow was intransigent in its attitude to a resumption of the Geneva arms talks and to escalation of the arms race.

Row between Jayawardene, opposition threatens talks

COLOMBO (R) — A row which has broken out between President Junius Jayawardene and Sri Lanka's largest opposition party could jeopardise next Tuesday's all-party conference on the island's ethnic problems, political sources said Saturday.

Mr. Jayawardene has unleashed a bitter attack on the general secretary of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), accusing him of a breach of confidence and indulging in "untruths" concerning discussions the SLFP had with Mr. Jayawardene Friday.

The role of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who is trying to help find a solution to the tension between the island's majority Sinhalese and minority Tamils, has also been dragged into the controversy.

According to SLFP General Secretary Ratnasiri Wickramanayake, the president said the all-party conference was being held to please Mrs. Gandhi. Mr. Jayawardene issued a strong denial.

The accusations appeared in letters between Mr. Wic-

kramanayake and Mr. Jayawardene which were released by the Presidential Palace Saturday.

The SLFP, headed by former Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike, is due to meet on Monday to decide its response.

Since ethnic violence broke out last July killing nearly 400 people, Mrs. Gandhi has been mediating between the Sri Lankan authorities and the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), which is leading a campaign for a separate Tamil state.

According to informed sources, shuttle diplomacy by Mrs. Gandhi's special envoy, Gopalaswami Parthasarathi, has narrowed differences between Mr. Jayawardene and TULF leaders.

Party sources said several politbureau members had not arrived in Colombo from the southern Indian city of Madras where they have been living since the July violence.

Three other members returned to Colombo on Wednesday for discussions with the Indian envoy and other political parties.

KAL disaster victims' relatives sue for \$329m

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Relatives of 47 South Koreans killed in the Korean Air Lines (KAL) Boeing 747 shot down by the Soviet Union on Sept. 1 are seeking damages totalling \$329 million, their lawyer said Saturday.

They are suing the Soviet Union, KAL, Boeing and Litton Systems Inc., which made the navigation system aboard the ill-fated airliner.

Attorney Melvin Belli said: "I think we have got a good viable suit against the Russians."

The suit charges the Soviet Union with cruel and premeditated murder of the airliner's passengers and crew. It accuses KAL of negligence for allowing the airliner to stray into Soviet airspace, while Boeing and Litton are alleged to have allowed defective products on board the aircraft.

Mr. Belli has already filed similar lawsuits on behalf of four

Americans killed in the incident and said he planned to sue on behalf of 40 other victims next month.

A total of 269 people were killed when the Jumbo jet was shot down by missile-carrying Soviet aircraft after it strayed over Soviet territory on a flight from Anchorage, Alaska to Seoul.

Mr. Belli said he expected the case to be heard later this year and his firm was now translating papers into Russian so they can be sent to Moscow.

Lawyer Charles Herman of Seattle, who is cooperating with Mr. Belli, said: "The claim against the Soviet Union is plain and simple — outright murder."

"It is technically based on the fact that the Soviet Union did not follow the internationally prescribed rules for warnings and commands for the plane to land before they opened fire," he added.

Democrats seek unified arms talks

WASHINGTON (R) — Congressional Democrats, accusing President Reagan of half-hearted nuclear arms negotiations with the Soviet Union, called Saturday for unified strategic and intermediate range missile talks.

The proposal to hold joint negotiations came in a party document issued by a House of Representatives Democratic group which strongly criticised Mr. Reagan's budget and defence policies.

Separate U.S.-Soviet talks on reductions in strategic and intermediate range nuclear weapons have broken down.

"America's present negotiating attempts are half-hearted," the Democrats said.

They added: "The Reagan administration's lukewarm engagement in arms control and irresponsible rhetoric about fighting and surviving nuclear wars have only intensified an already incalculable danger to our nation and the world."

Kampuchean rebel leader urges Phnom Penh officials to defect

AMPIL, Kampuchea (R) — A leader of a guerrilla resistance group Saturday marked the fifth anniversary of the Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea by urging officials of the Hanoi-installed government to defect and join the fight to expell Vietnamese troops from the country.

Son Sann, head of the Kampuchean National Liberation Front (KNLF) and prime minister of the Resistance Coalition, said all Kampucheans should unite to pursue the common objective of liberating their country.

He made the appeal at a press conference at his headquarters here, some 1,000 metres from the Thai border, that was attended by about 50 Thai and foreign correspondents based in Bangkok.

They were welcomed by an organised rally, the burning in effigy of Vietnamese soldiers and classical dancing. They were later invited to lunch with Mr. Sann.

A KNLF official admitted the event was a public relations offensive designed to steal the lim-

elight from Phnom Penh.

The other members of the tripartite coalition are the Khmer Rouge, ousted from power by the Vietnamese occupation, and supporters of Prince Norodom Sihanouk who heads the coalition government of democratic Kampuchea.

Mr. Son Sann said the fifth anniversary of the Vietnamese occupation and installation of the Heng Samrin government was a celebration of Kampuchean sufferings and miseries.

He said indications were that people living inside Kampuchea were suffering from hunger and deprivation and added that this year a shortage of 130,000 tonnes of rice was expected.

The KNLF leader reiterated the coalition's call for an end to Vietnam's occupation of Kampuchea.

"The KNLF is prepared to facilitate an honourable way for Vietnam to leave Cambodia," he said.

He called on Vietnamese and Kampuchean peoples to begin to cooperate with one another "to reduce the karma of hatred which

has existed between them for centuries, in order to prepare a new era of good relations between the two countries and the two peoples."

Before the press conference Mr. Son Sann appeared at a public rally at the camp's soccer pitch, patting babies and touching hands with old men and women as organisers harangued the 3,000-crowd to fever pitch shouting slogans of "Vietnamese go home", "death to the Vietnamese."

Only a few armed guerrilla fighters were visible at the camp which holds some 38,000 refugees and Mr. Son Sann explained that the troop camps had been separated from civilian camps.

"This separation should no longer give any excuse for the occupation forces from Vietnam to attack the homes of civilian inhabitants," he added.

Referring to Vietnam's expected dry season border offensive against coalition guerrillas, he said: "What the Vietnamese troops will do during this dry season is still a matter of speculation. But we are prepared for the worse."

Police searching for Koo's stolen tape

LONDON (R) — British police are searching for a stolen tape recording made by an ex-girlfriend of Queen Elizabeth's son Prince Andrew, a British newspaper said Sunday.

The Mail on Sunday said it had a copy of the 40-minute recording by Koo Stark, one-time nude actress, but said it was doing its best to keep it from other "unscrupulous hands".

Scotland Yard confirmed it was investigating the theft of a purse on Nov. 7 from Miss Stark, who had a widely-published 18-month affair with Prince Andrew, the queen's second son.

The Mail, sometimes accused by critics of intrusions into royal privacy, said a copy of the tape "came into its hands."

Under a headline "World Exclusive: Secrets of Koo's Stolen Tape", Mail editor Stewart Stevenson expressed his determination to honour Miss Stark's privacy. Without quoting the tape directly, he gave an 18-paragraph "interpretation" of it, describing Miss Stark's "love and frustration" over her affair with Prince Andrew.

Mr. Steven told Reuters that Mail agents agreed with "representatives" of Miss Stark in Miami, Florida, to publish a précis of the tape but he refused to say on what terms they were persuaded to agree to publication.

"They were in a position to stop publication of any sort," Mr. Steven told Reuters. "It was an informal agreement."



Koo Stark

Mr. Steven refused to comment on whether the Mail was publishing the contents of the tape while pretending it was not.

Rajiv emerges as the rising star of Indian politics

By Chaitanya Kalbag
Reuters

CALCUTTA — Rajiv Gandhi, the 39-year-old son of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, has emerged as the rising star of Indian politics at a national convention of her ruling Congress (I) Party.

Hailed by party workers as India's hope for the future, Rajiv took centre stage at the conference next to his mother and is regarded by many across India as her chosen heir apparent.

Critics accuse Mrs. Gandhi of trying to impose Rajiv as her successor in a bid to perpetuate a political dynasty. Her father Jawaharlal Nehru was independent India's first prime minister.

Mrs. Gandhi dismisses suggestions she is grooming Rajiv as her political heir, saying it is up to the people to decide. But few, even in her own party, take her at her word.

Rajiv made a triumphant entry into Calcutta for the conference aboard a special train festooned with placards and posters of himself and his 66-year-old mother,

who has ruled India since 1966, with a brief gap between 1977-81.

As he sat on the conference podium among the old men of the Congress leadership, he was described as "a rosebud in a bed of over-ripe cabbages" by Khushwant Singh, a leading political commentator.

A slow-speaking, slightly balding man, Rajiv was a late starter in Indian politics. He was drafted in by the prime minister after the death of his younger brother, Sanjay.

Until he died in a plane crash in 1981, Sanjay was his mother's chief lieutenant and played an important part in her period of emergency rule from 1975-77.

Rajiv, a former airline pilot married to an Italian girl, was content to sit on the sidelines.

"I was very happy with the airlines. But after Sanjay's death there was a void in the party, and a feeling that only I could fill it," he told Calcutta's main Bengali-language daily, Ananda Bazar Patrika.

He is one of five Congress Party secretaries-generals. But so far he

has achieved position and influence without a fight.

Suggestions that internal party elections would be held at the Calcutta convention never materialised and no one has dared challenge his rise. Today, he occupied the de facto number two position after his mother.

"Crucial governmental decisions are made by the prime minister often only on the son's advice and often by the son himself," wrote H.K. Dua, the Indian Express newspaper's political correspondent, during last week's conference.

"The ill-concealed dynastic functioning is evident to the rank and file of a captive ruling party and no one dare question it," he added.

Hailed as "Mr. Clean" when he entered politics, Rajiv is building up a band of young men around him. Many have experience in industry and were his classmates at an exclusive private school in Northern India.

Displacing the white cloth caps of the era of Mahatma Gandhi, they have introduced modern

advertising techniques and computerised poll forecasting to Indian electoral politics.

Rajiv is trying to breathe new life into a party founded almost 100 years ago but now riven by internal bickering and saddled with stale ideology.

His mother, the party's president, has launched a campaign to revive its village-level contact with the people in an effort to drum up new support ahead of a general election due by January 1985. This could be Rajiv's biggest test.

Having taken over Sanjay's former parliamentary constituency in the north Indian district of Amethi, he now faces the prospect of a family fight with his brother's widow, Maneka Gandhi.

Maneka, 27, a former model and journalist, fell out with Mrs. Gandhi after Sanjay's death.

She formed her own political party last year and assisted in a dramatic defeat of the Congress in state elections in its former stronghold of Andhra Pradesh 12 months ago.

Now she has vowed to take on

Rajiv in his own constituency — and as Sanjay's widow she can command sympathy in Amethi.

Rajiv, who is having to learn the cut and thrust of politics, used the conference to lash out at the opposition of both left and right.

He accused the Communist government of West Bengal, which has Calcutta as its capital, of economic mismanagement.

In a biting rebuke, West Bengal Finance Minister Ashok Mitra said he was "not prepared to learn economics from an airline pilot whose only qualification is that he is Mrs. Gandhi's son. We have our own economics and policies which have received the mandate of the people."

Mrs. Gandhi herself is particularly touchy about Rajiv. She refused to answer a question at a press conference here about how she assessed his performance as party secretary-general.

"Is it of national importance? I am not answering this question. Freedom of the press does not mean saying and doing things which are not in the national interest..." she said.



Convicted thief has hand cut off

KHARTOUM (R) — A convicted Sudanese thief had his right hand cut off at a prison near here for stealing a traveller's bag at a bus station, officials said. The punishment was the second since President Jaafar Numeiri introduced the Sharia Islamic Law in Sudan last September.

247 endangered species in Russia

MOSCOW (R) — A new edition of the "red book" listing 247 endangered species protected by Soviet law has been issued in Russia, the official press reported Sunday. The book covers in detail protected fauna of the Russian federation, which stretches from the Baltic to the Pacific and is the largest of the Soviet Union's 25 republics. In his report to the last Communist Party Congress President Yuri Andropov said more attention had to be paid to ecology. In the past the environment has often suffered in the Soviet drive towards industrialisation and exploitation of resources.

Mayor apologises for police harassment

PEKING (R) — The mayor of the central city of Wuhan has apologised to private traders for the way police drove them out of business by tearing down their stalls and smashing their tools, the China Daily reported. The English-language newspaper said Mayor Wu Guanzheng had promised to reimburse more than 500 traders for their losses and return business licences which had been illegally confiscated. Wuhan's urban environment and traffic office, which was responsible for the police harassment in the last two months, had also apologised, it added. The Guangming Daily last week called the police action "a blatant violation of the constitution" and pinned the blame on extreme leftists opposed to the recent revival of private enterprise. China has about three million private urban traders, involved in running restaurants, small shops, tailoring and other businesses.

According to informed sources, shuttle diplomacy by Mrs. Gandhi's special envoy, Gopalaswami Parthasarathi, has narrowed differences between Mr. Jayawardene and TULF leaders.

Party sources said several politbureau members had not arrived in Colombo from the southern Indian city of Madras where they have been living since the July violence.

Three other members returned to Colombo on Wednesday for discussions with the Indian envoy and other political parties.

Soviet diplomat dies of asphyxiation

WASHINGTON (R) — A Soviet diplomat was found dead of asphyxiation at the Soviet embassy, but foul play was not suspected, police and medical authorities said. They identified the man as Evgeny Gavrilov, 32, a diplomat who came to the United States late last year. Washington Medical Examiner Douglas Dixon said Mr. Gavrilov died by "asphyxiation from a neck ligature." Police said a rope was found near the body.

Soviets seek ways to fight alcoholism

MOSCOW (R) — Alcohol is a serious cause of distress in many Soviet families and increased efforts are needed from school-age onwards to discourage the tendency to turn to the vodka bottle. Pravda said Sunday. The official Communist Party newspaper said it had letters from older children complaining how their lives were made unhappy because both parents took to the bottle after work. An answer, an educational science professor suggested in the newspaper's columns, was to teach adults to appreciate music, the theatre, exhibitions or just walking instead of heavy drinking. He said the greatest danger was to girls, who should be warned in school that women become alcoholics more quickly than men.

Cat for sale: Complete with house

LONDON (R) — For sale: A Casanova cat called Kasper. The price: 40,000 sterling (\$60,000). The buyer gets to share a seaside love nest with Kasper and two of his ladyfriends called Pearl and Heather. Kasper is so attached to his home in Torquay, southwest England, and the two female cats which live nearby that he's staying put while his owners move to another part of the country. The Georgian-style house is being sold by Chris and Josie Fearr with Kasper — actual value about £100 (\$150) — as a sitting tenant, because, they say, he's "totally infatuated" and it wouldn't be fair to move him.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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FISHBEIN'S FLAIR

DEAR READERS: We have had many requests over the years for those hands that we consider to be our favorites. That makes quite a list. For the time being, therefore, we are devoting the Sunday column to a series of famous hands. At the end of the series, we will go back to our weekly question and answer column. North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ J764
♥ QJ4
♦ K93
♣ 1063

WEST EAST
♠ Q2 ♠ 103
♥ 653 ♥ 109
♦ AQJ1064 ♦ 8752
♣ Q5 ♣ AK972

SOUTH
♠ AK985
♥ AK872
♦ Void
♣ J84

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠
3 ♥ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠.

Harry Fishbein was one of the most colorful characters we knew, and at away from the bridge table. He was known in the bridge world for his colorful speech, highlighted by double negatives, and his equally colorful berets. Never at a tournament would he be seen in the same beret twice! Few would believe that this character was a shrewd bridge mind, and that was good for many points, and as

many dollars. One of Fishbein's great attributes was that he could make life easy for his partners. This hand is a classic example. Fishbein, sitting West, overcalled two diamonds and his partner showed his clubs — to suggest a lead should the opponents buy the hand; had he been doubled, he would obviously have corrected to diamonds. But nothing could prevent North-South from reaching their reasonable four spade contract.

Fishbein led the queen of clubs and continued the suit. East won the king and cashed the ace. Looking at all four hands, it is still not easy to find the winning discard. Fishbein found it at the table.

Fishbein knew that, left to his own devices, his partner would shift to a diamond. That would be well and good if declarer had